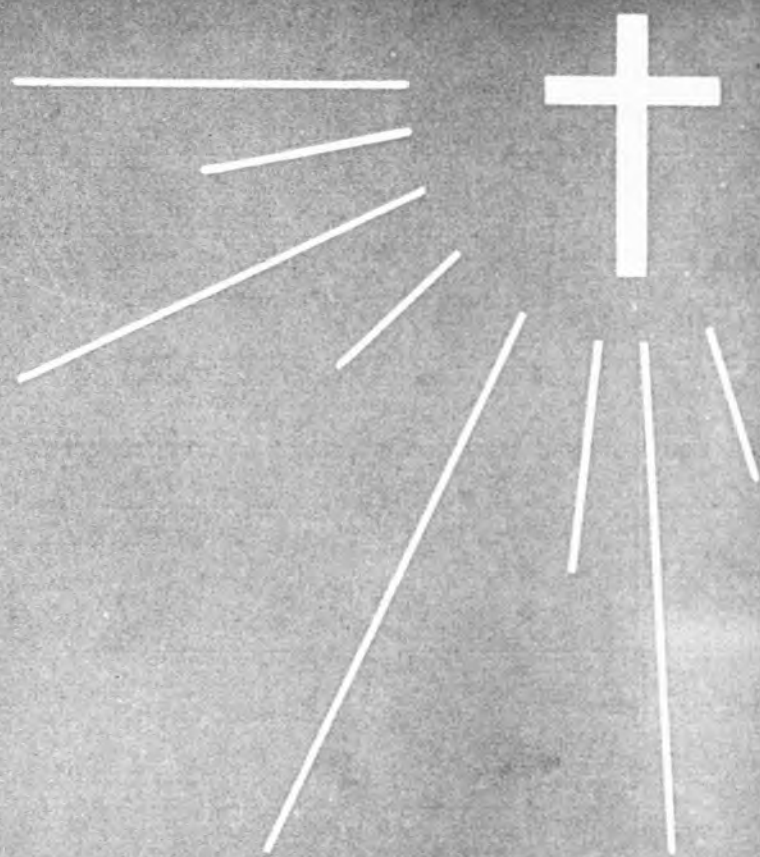


St. Augustine's



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ESSENGER

ST.
AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

PUBLICATION OFFICE
TECHNY, ILLINOIS

Vol. XXII, No. 1
JANUARY, 1944

Postmaster: See inside cover



FRANCISCAN MISSION CHURCH, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

NOTICE!

Due to conditions beyond our control we are no longer able to offer our readers hand-bound annual volumes of ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER.

However, we do have a number of unbound sets of last year's issues and a few sets of the issues of 1942 which we are able to offer for \$1.00 per set.

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REV. FATHER RECTOR

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

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PUBLISHED
TO MAKE THE
WORK OF THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
AMONG
NEGROES
BETTER
KNOWN

● *St. Augustine's* ● **MESSENGER**

"The Magazine with a Message"

TO AID THE
Cause for which
S.V.D.
MISSIONARIES
ARE WORKING —
MORE
NEGRO PRIESTS
AND
RELIGIOUS

A Catholic magazine, published monthly, except July and August, at Techny, Ill., by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXII

JANUARY, 1944

Number 1

THE NEGRO DECLARES

"If you discriminate against me because I am uncouth, I can become mannerly. If you ostracize me because I am unclean, I can cleanse myself. If you segregate me because I lack knowledge, I can become educated. But if you discriminate against me because of my color, I can do nothing. God gave me that...."

ANDREW HATCHER
in the *Daily Princetonian*



THE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY ON THE RIGHTS OF NEGROES

◆ ◆ ◆

The following is an official declaration of the Catholic Church's stand with regard to the rights of the Negro. It is contained in the statement on the essentials of a good peace, issued by 100 Archbishops and Bishops of the Catholic Church at the close of their annual meeting in Washington, D.C., November, 1943.

"In the Providence of God there are among us millions of fellow-citizens of the Negro race. We owe to these fellow-citizens, who have contributed so largely to the development of our country and for whose welfare history imposes on us a special obligation of justice, to see that they have in fact the rights which are given them in our Constitution. This means not only political equality, but also fair economic and educational opportunities, a just share in public welfare projects, good housing without exploitation, and a full chance for the social advancement of their race. When given their rights in fact as in law, they will prize with us our national heritage and not lend ears to agitators whose real objective is not to improve but to destroy our way of living.

"In many of our great industrial centers acute racial tensions exist. It is the duty of every good citizen to do everything in his power to relieve them. To create a neighborhood spirit of justice and conciliation will be particularly helpful to this end. We hope that our priests and people will seek opportunity to promote better understanding of the many factors in this complex problem and strive for its solution in a genuine Catholic spirit."

COSTA RICA'S FIRST

Roberto Evans is the first colored seminarian ever to study for the priesthood in the Central American Republic of Costa Rica. This little country has a population of 639,000 people of whom over 500,000 are Catholics. However, there are at present only 50 priests in Costa Rica.

Mr. Evans is now in his second year of philosophy at the San José Seminary, San José, Costa Rica, and will be ordained to the priesthood after four years.



S.V.D. BROTHERS PROFESSED



On November 1 Brother Ignatius, S.V.D., formerly of Atlanta, Ga., and Brother Stephen, S.V.D., formerly of Washington, D. C. (front row, 2nd and 3rd from left), made their first profession as members of the Society of the Divine Word at Bay Saint Louis, Miss. At the same time Herbert Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio, was received into the novitiate as Brother Gervase (back row center). Brothers Bonaventure, Regis, Michael and Lawrence renewed their vows at the same ceremony

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NEGRO MISSION WORK EXPANDS

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- The Past Year Saw the Opening of
- 14 New Missions, 4 Schools and a Hospital

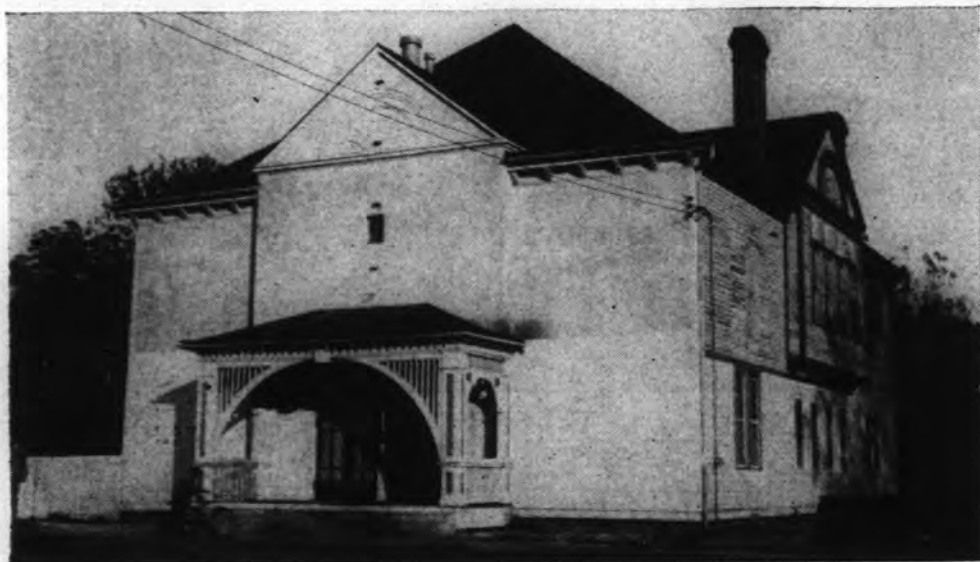
The present World War has made more difficult, but has not stopped, the steady advance of the Negro Missions in the United States. During the past year of 1943, at least 14 new Negro Missions were begun. And in addition 4 new colored Catholic schools, one day nursery, one 16-bed hospital, 2 clinics and a social center were opened.

However, the war did bring the building program of the Colored Missions almost to a standstill, with the result that only four new churches were built last year, namely: St. Mary's Church in Weimar, Texas, under the direction of diocesan priests; St. Martin's Church in Springfield, O., under the direction of the Precious Blood Fathers; St. Joseph's Church in New Bern, N. C. (destroyed by fire and rebuilt) under the direction of the Passionists; and Holy Rosary Church in Fresno, Calif., under the direction of the Redemptorist Fathers.

Two other Catholic churches, formerly in white neighborhoods, were turned over for the use of colored congregations. They are St. Edward's Church, Cleveland, O., and St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J.

The four new schools opened during the past year are St. Bartholomew's in Camden, N. J.; St. Edward's in Cleveland O.; Nazareth Mission School in North Montgomery, Ala.; and St. Peter Claver's in Wichita, Kans.

Four communities of Sisters, not heretofore engaged in colored work, entered the Negro Mission field in 1943. The Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Caldwell, N. J.) began doing catechetical and social work among the colored people in St. Peter Claver's Parish, Asbury Park, N. J. The Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Kunegunda (Chicago, Ill.) took charge of their first colored school — St. Peter Claver's in Mobile, Ala. The Sisters of the



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St. Gerard's is under the care of the Redemptorist Fathers. The building was formerly a public theater, but under the zealous hands of the priest in charge is being rapidly converted into a chapel and living quarters

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



DOMINICAN SISTERS FROM SINSINAWA, WIS.
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Resurrection (Chicago Province) began teaching in St. Mary Magdalene's School, Tuscaloosa, Ala. The Sisters, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary (Beaverville, Ill.), took charge of St. Gabriel's School, Hot Springs, Ark.

Other communities already in the field expanded their work. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Des Plaines, Ill.) took over the direction of the Zimmer Memorial Orphanage, Toulminville, Ala., St. James' School, Prichard, Ala., and the newly established Nazareth Mission School and Clinic in North Montgomery, Alabama.

The Sisters of Charity (Nazareth, Ky.) opened the 16-bed Holy Family Hospital in Ensley, Ala., and began teaching the first two years of high school which were added to Holy Family School, Ensley, Ala., for the first time this year.

St. Edward's School, Cleveland, O., and the new St. Bartholomew's School, Camden, N. J., were added to the long list of Negro Mission schools staffed by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Cornwells Heights, Pa.). The Sisters, Adorers of the Precious Blood (Wichita), who had been teaching Catechism in the Parish of St. Peter Claver's in Wichita, Kans., began teaching the Four R's when the new St. Peter Claver's School was opened in September.

The Sisters of the Holy Family (New Orleans, La.), a community of colored Sisters, took over the direction of Holy Family School in Covington, La., while another community of colored Sisters, the Oblate Sisters of Providence (Baltimore, Md.), began doing catechetical and social service work in Christ the King Mission, Orangeburg, S. C.

The Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of the Most Holy

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Rosary took over the direction of Most Pure Heart of Mary School, Mobile, Ala., their fourth Negro Mission School.

New missions opened during the past year are:

Society of St. Joseph: Mission in Denison, Texas; and Blessed Martin de Porres' Social Center in St. Joseph, La.

Franciscan Fathers: Mission in Detroit, Mich.; and Mission in McGehee, Ark.



ST. MALACHY'S CHURCH, ST. LOUIS, MO. Under the care of the Jesuit Fathers this church has made much progress since it was first given over to the use of colored Catholics in 1941. The School, taught by the Sisters of Charity, has over 200 pupils. A clinic and a day nursery for children between the ages of 2 and 5½ years were recently opened in this parish

Society of the Precious Blood: St. Martin's Mission, Springfield, O., and St. Edward's Church Cleveland, Ohio.

Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer: Mission in Cedartown, Ga., and St. Gerard's Mission, Aiken, S. C.

Congregation of the Resurrection: Nazareth Mission in North Montgomery, Ala., and Our Lady of Victory Mission, Warrington, Fla.

Society of the Divine Word: St. Peter Claver's Church, Asbury Park, N. J., and St. Jule's Mission, Franklin, La.

Oblates of Mary Immaculate: Mission in Valdosta, Ga.

Diocesan Clergy: St. Mary's Church, Weimar, Texas.

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Thus the missionary priests, Brothers and Sisters working in the Colored Missions of America have brought another successful year to a close.

CALLING ALL —

SOLDIERS! SAILORS! MARINES!

We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. We want to publish your letters in **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER** for the benefit of the folks at home. Next month we shall begin publishing the letters already received.

— THE EDITOR



His Excellency, Archbishop Spellman of New York, poses for a picture with a group at the NCCS-USO Club, Orangeburg, N. Y. Rev. Michael Murphy, Moderator of the Club, is at the right. Standing next to the Archbishop is Mr. Joseph Robichaux, Director (right), and (left) Miss Marie Battle, Associate Director

Archbishop Spellman Visits USO Club

- Orangeburg Club One of 40 Catholic Operations
- For Negroes in the Service of Their Country

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Exchanging friendly greetings and chatting pleasantly with the

Negro soldiers as he was being shown through the well-equipped club, His Excellency seemed very much pleased with what he saw.

The Orangeburg NCCS-USO Club, under the able directorship of the well known colored Catholic leader, Joseph Robichaux, Jr., of Chicago, was recently remodeled and refurnished at a cost of more than \$25,000. It has a spacious social hall, a completely furnished lounge, a snack bar, game room and writing-room, and offers servicemen opportunity for recreation and education by means of books, games,

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parties, dancing, dramatics and photography classes.

This is only one of the 40 USO Clubs operated by the National Catholic Community Service throughout the country for the benefit of Negro soldiers, sailors, marines and WACS. These clubs are located as follows:

Alabama: Anniston.

Arizona: Fort Huachuca.

California: Blythe, Indio, Vallejo and Victorville.

Colorado: Pueblo.

Florida: Jacksonville, Pensacola and Tampa.

Georgia: Augusta and Savannah.

Idaho: Boise.

Iowa: Des Moines and Sioux City.

Mississippi: Gulfport.

Missouri: Rollo.

Nevada: Las Vegas and Reno.

New Mexico: Carlsbad and Roswell.

New York: Orangeburg.

North Carolina: Fayetteville, Spring Lake and Wilmington.

Oklahoma: Muskogee.

South Carolina: Charleston, Columbia and Myrtle Beach.

Tennessee: Tullahoma.

Texas: Austin, Cuero, Gainesville, Galveston, Laredo, McAllen, Odessa and Victoria.

Utah: Salt Lake City.

Virginia: Hampton.



Relaxation from the exacting duties of camp life was provided by the Orangeburg USO Club in this dance which hundreds attended

S.V.D. CHAPLAINS SERVING WITH OUR ARMED FORCES

Captain John W. Bowman, S.V. D.,
of Washington, D. C.

Ordained in 1939, Father Bowman was engaged in parish work at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La., when he entered the Army and became the first Negro Catholic chaplain in the United States Armed Forces

★ V ★



Lieutenant Gerald Rabe, S.V. D.,
of Buffalo, N. Y., ordained in 1937, entered the Army from St. Francis Xavier's Mission House, Island Creek, Massachusetts

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Lt. (s.g.) Joseph Garrity, S.V. D.,
of Boston, Mass.

Ordained in 1938, Father Garrity was teaching English and History at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss., at the time he volunteered as a chaplain in the United States Navy



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New York: Orangeburg.

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Comm. Nicholas Geldens, S.V.D.,
of Nijmegen, Holland. Ordained
in 1933, Father Geldens was doing
missionary work in the Dutch East
Indies when he volunteered as a
chaplain in the Netherlands
Merchant Marine

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Lieutenant Charles Erb, S.V.D.,
of Rochester, N. Y. Formerly edi-
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Mission House, East Troy, Wis.,
when he entered the Army



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Lt. Theodore Martin, S.V.D.,
of Altoona, Pa. Ordained in 1932,
Father Martin was teaching in
Sacred Heart Mission House, Gi-
rard, Pa., at the time he entered
the Navy

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Captain Harold Rigney, S.V. D., of Chicago, Ill. Ordained in 1930, Father Rigney was engaged in missionary work on the Gold Coast of British West Africa when he entered the Army as a chaplain



Lieutenant Henry Marusa, S.V. D., of Cleveland, O., ordained in 1933, was formerly at St. Elizabeth's, Chicago



Lt. George Stephan, S.V. D., of Buffalo, N. Y., ordained in 1935, was assistant pastor of St. Nicholas' Church, St. Louis, Mo., when he entered the Army



★ V ★



Captain Edward Luis, S.V. D., of Okarche, Okla. Ordained in 1935, Father Luis was engaged in vocational work at the time of his entrance into the Army

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Captain Harold Rigney, S.V. D., of Chicago, Ill. Ordained in 1930, Father Rigney was engaged in missionary work on the Gold Coast of British West Africa when he entered the Army as a chaplain



Lieutenant Henry Marusa, S.V. D., of Cleveland, O., ordained in 1933, was formerly at St. Elizabeth's, Chicago



Lt. George Stephan, S.V. D., of Buffalo, N. Y., ordained in 1935, was assistant pastor of St. Nicholas' Church, St. Louis, Mo., when he entered the Army



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Captain Edward Luis, S.V. D., of Okarche, Okla. Ordained in 1935, Father Luis was engaged in vocational work at the time of his entrance into the Army

Hello, everybody! Here in this peaceful corner of God's Vineyard, where young men are sacrificing their lives for Christ in the religious missionary Priesthood and Brotherhood, we present to each and everyone the current happenings. Now for a bit of friendly Seminary chatter.

Forty Hours' Devotion

Annually during the Feast of Christ the King, and on the two days preceding this feast we celebrate the Forty Hours' Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. During special hours of adoration the respective groups of our Community offered prayerful and fervent supplication for the various intentions of Holy Church, for our benefactors, and especially for the restoration of true Christian peace. At the head of each division of seminarians, Brothers and students was a priest, who prayed in common with all.

On Friday, October 28, the Forty Hours' Devotion began with a Solemn High Mass. Visits of adoration occurring successively on Friday and Saturday were brought to conclusion with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening.

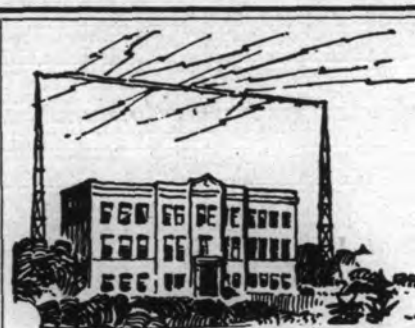
Closing devotions on Sunday evening included procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemn Benediction. It is the spirit of prayer on days of adoration that keeps Jesus alive in our hearts today, and such worship appeases His Sacred Heart in spite of the turmoil of war and widespread devastation.

Novice Invested

Another young man has sacrificed his life to the Lord and was officially received into the Brothers' Novitiate of the Society of the Divine Word November 1. He is Brother Gervase, formerly Herbert Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio. As a novice he was invested with the habit of the Society and the cincture of the novitiate, which is distinguished by its red band and black stripe in the middle. May God deign to bless this humble and noble sacrifice!

First Vows

Together with the traditional ceremony of investiture of the above-



Seminary BROADCAST

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay
the only Catholic Negro Seminary

mentioned novice, Brothers Ignatius and Stephen, who completed the two-year period of probation in the novitiate, solemnly pronounced for the first time the holy Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

An inspiring event is offered us as



Frater Oscar Hodges, S.V.D., of O. Joseph Francis, S.V.D., of Lafayette their first profession as members of the Society of the Divine Word, and are now spending two years in the novitiate at St. Mary's Seminary, Te.

Community News

BROADCAST from
 Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
 Catholic Negro Seminary in America



these young men come before the Altar of the Lord and lay down their lives, as it were, for the missionary service of Christ and the salvation of souls. They sacrifice home, parents and the attractive pleasures of the world, in order that they may immolate themselves more



S.V.D., of Omaha, Nebr., and Frater [unclear], of Lafayette, La., who recently made [unclear] members of the Society of the Divine [unclear] pending two years in the juniorate at Seminary, Techny, Illinois

perfectly to God. We extend our best wishes and prayers that these young men may persevere manfully in their exalted striving.

Brothers Renew Vows

In their humble resolve to spend their lives in the Religious Brotherhood, other members responded faithfully to the renewal of Vows November 1. Brothers Bonaventure and Michael dedicated themselves anew to their holy Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in the Presence of the Lord.

Brother Regis, jeweler and electrician for the religious Community at Techny, Illinois, and Brother Lawrence participated in the retreat preparatory to the celebration of holy Vows, and thus renewed their vows as is the usual custom here after retreat.

These young men are true soldiers of Christ their King in the noblest sense of the word. They wage the battle of the Lord in a silent and hidden manner with prayer and work for the missions. God willing, never do they retire or surrender from this missionary theater of war. Sincere congratulations to our Brothers!

"Wake Island"

This movie proved a wonderful treat, since it held the Community's interest throughout the showing by its masterly and intelligible presentation of confirmed facts, happening in the history of today's war.

Gee! You know, folks, it's great entertainment and relaxation for the youngsters here to escape from the steady grind of the old Latin and Greek books and take out a little time for a grand movie. Particularly during the humorous moments of Pop-Eye, the Sailor Man, many cheery grins and laughs were forthcoming.

Procession

On November 1 the All Souls' Day Procession wended its way from our chapel door over the grassy paths into the cemetery. Participating in this great spiritual work of mercy for the Church Suffering, the students sang appropriate hymns and recited the Rosary together with other prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed.

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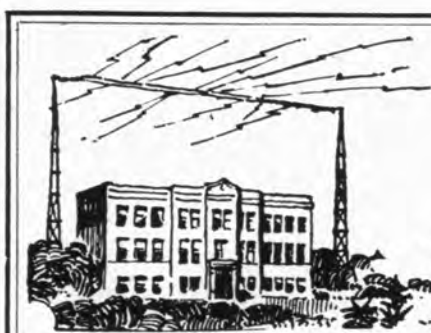
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NUNU, GLAMOR BOY, NUMBER ZERO

VICTOR BOISVERT, C.S.C.

That's what his big sister, Roheamon, called him, and he did not like it at all. Everyone laughed so hard at poor Nunu's newly acquired title that he shed great big tears which rolled down his brown cheeks as he shook his head slowly, slowly and begged in a pitiful little whimper, "Please don't call Nunu that, oh, please don't call Nunu that."

Roheamon stood erect and shook her finger at the culprit, "Listen here, young man, we'll call you glamor boy, number zero, just as long as you play around when there is work to do. Now you get that wood I told you to get!"

Nunu's business instinct flashed into activity. "If I get the wood, you won't call Nunu that name?"

Roheamon ended the argument with a vigorous, "You get that wood, young man!"

Nunu trudged off to the woodpile shaking his head as if the whole world had fallen about his ears.

Each afternoon about four o'clock, when they had returned from school, the three younger children brought in the wood for the fireplace and for the kitchen stove. They had done this all winter, but on that particular day Nunu had experienced a personal intimate glimpse of spring and had developed his own style of spring fever. He had danced down the gravel road from school and had sung and hummed to himself. He would have nothing to do with the other children; he just frisked about the house and continued to hum and to sing to himself with a far-off look in his big brown eyes. It was not until after supper that Roheamon discovered that Nunu's share of the wood had not been carried into the living-room. When she reminded him of his work, he smiled impishly and danced into the kitchen. Roheamon followed and Nunu waved his arms, stuck out his



tongue and scampered out on the back porch where, by some strange intuition, Roheamon gave him the name more effective than a switch or his Daddy's belt.

The little fellow, of course, needed correction from time to time, but none of us had the heart to spank him as and where he should have been spanked. Quite by accident I found that Nunu was an altaphobiatic (he feared high places), so when I visited his home and heard bad reports of his conduct I would put him up on the mantelpiece over the fireplace to reason with him. His tears came very quickly and Nunu would plead in a thin small voice,

"If you take Nunu down, Nunu won't never do it again."

And I must say in all fairness that Nunu never needed to be corrected twice for the same offense.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

It will not be long before I will have to find some words other than "the little fellow" to describe him, because Nunu is growing like a weed — fast, tall and scraggy. Each morning he manages to push himself up another half inch and "eat" has become his middle name. But his thinness and his oft-repeated meditative moods, which lead him to squat off in a corner from his brother and sisters and look blankly into space with his head cocked to one side, worried his parents and me to such an extent that we took him to the doctor, who laughed heartily after a thorough examination and said, "The little tyke is growing up; he's beginning to think, to figure things out for himself." And as the sunshine and the warmth of spring deepened we shed our worries about Nunu as we slipped out of our heavy coats and shoes.

Last spring Nunu became a full-fledged "ditch-bug." Up to that time he had had only a passing interest in the childish industry of the ditches — the catching of crayfish with visions of big money when they were sold to the fishermen from New Orleans. Nunu joined the gang in dead earnest and set all kinds of traps: old shoes, tin cans, wide-mouthed bottles. Each afternoon the gang inspected their traps and dumped the crayfish into a big can where they died after a day or two. Down this way, of course, everyone calls a crayfish a "crawfish," which has given rise to the southern expression, "Don't crawfish," which means: "Do not go back on your promise," because a crayfish always scuttles away backwards.

The white children trapped crayfish in the wide ditch in front of the Catholic church and the Negro children played in the ditch down the road in front of the Negro Methodist church. Often I could hear their shrieks of delight. "I got me a crawfish!" they would chant, "I got me a crawfish!"

Then one Saturday afternoon while Zeke and I were working in the garden two fishermen stopped their auto to ask where they could buy some bait. Mindful of the children and their dreams of

big profits, I referred the two men to the business of the ditches and personally Zeke and I went out to call the children. Out of the houses tumbled the kiddies when they heard the news, but the traps were all empty, the caught crayfish were dead, and after grubbing and netting through the muddy waters for half an hour only two crayfish presented themselves for the market. So the fishermen left our quiet little village with small regard for the way in which we handled the bait business.

To me Spring is more of a treat in the South than it ever was in the North. Spring arrives sooner and develops her beauties more rapidly so that we can enjoy her green warmth. Spring loves to tantalize up North: she slips in for a day or two to make a rough estimate of the green she must bring, then in the rains of a night she darts off to make way for another freeze or blizzard. One never knows when she has arrived to stay; but when the tiny green-yellow buds begin to swell on the pecan branches we know down South that the warm weather has come to stay.

Up North the majestic whiteness of the blanketing snow hides the mournfulness of Winter. With frost, snow and ice Winter creates a million different designs on each landscape as he paints in black and white nature's own silhouettes. Thus the monotony of barrenness is broken.

But in the South, it is always the same mean cold penetrating rains which whip through the gaunt, bare trees. The Spanish moss is dead and flaps like tattered rags from the barren branches. The rain from the roof with its constant drip, drip soon warps your heart out of tune. The dismalness of the dead and sodden marches is intensified by the fires which sweep through the grass. These fires are beautiful in their terrific intensity while they last: huge yellow, orange and red flames two or three miles long sweeping and howling high into the trees as they whirl and shriek before the high winds to burn mile after mile of the swamplands, but the

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BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

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Roach was leading his company on hands and knees through tree stumps, brambles, ditches, shell holes and barbed wire with machine guns blazing a blanket of bullets just three feet above them. Suddenly a bullet shattered his forearm and elbow causing a painful and bleeding wound. Realizing that an outcry on his part would only throw the rookie soldiers of his company into panic and would even endanger their lives, Roach quietly passed a "cease firing" signal to the control officer. This coolness under fire won the praise of both officers and men. "The example of Sergeant Roach," said General Philoon, "has demonstrated the finest type of leadership." Sergeant Roach hails from Cleveland, Ohio.

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To Judge James S. Watson goes the honor of being the first Negro lawyer admitted to the American Bar Association. This action of the Association opens the way for admittance of Negro lawyers in other communities. Many progressive organizations, especially the Lawyers Guild, have actively fought for the elimination of race, creed or color prejudice. The American Bar Association before admitting Judge Watson had passed two resolutions both of which aimed at race discrimination.

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Captain F. M. McCoy, post trial judge advocate at the Tuskegee Army Air Field, was recently promoted to the rank of Major. This promotion gives him the distinction of being the highest ranking Negro officer in Tuskegee at present.

WMC Resurrects Racial Relations Office

In an effort to cut down and eliminate the barriers which prevent the government from enjoying the full use of Negro manpower, the War Manpower Commission has re-established its racial relations office and named Dr. R. C. Weaver as head of the office. Dr. Weaver was connected with the Office for Production of Negro workers into industry, an agency which benefited the Negro worker but was discontinued when the Fair Employment Practices Committee was established by the President. In re-establishing this racial relations office, the WMC wishes to cooperate fully with the FEPC in fighting the discriminatory practices of some war industries. This race relations agency will have regional representatives in several large cities of the country.

JANUARY'S SAINTS

Jan. 6 — Epiphany

Only a few shepherds were the sum total of the chosen people at the crib of our Divine Savior. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." But God's loving goodness reached out to the entire peoples of the world. He beckoned the gentile world to come and pay Him homage by means of a brilliantly shining star. The Three Kings, representing the non-Jewish world, answered the invitation and were led to Christ their King. The light of our Catholic faith must not be hidden and practiced only in private. It must be an ever burning star of good example that will draw others to know and love Christ and His one true Church. Pray for the conversion of heathen nations.



"They found the Child with Mary His Mother ... and opening their treasures they offered Him gifts."
(Matt. 2:11)

were losing courage in the face of such terrible tortures, he hastened to Rome in order to help them remain true soldiers of Christ. His words of encouragement, his intrepid faith and the many miracles which God wrought through him converted many unbelievers. He was denounced as a Chris-

tian to the emperor and was ordered to be pierced to death with arrows. A pious woman nursed him back to health. Hardly had his wounds closed when he approached the emperor and rebuked him for his wickedness. This time he received the full crown of martyrdom by being beaten to death with rods. Pray that our soldiers may imitate the fortitude and good example of St. Sebastian.

Jan. 9 — Holy Family

In the happy, peaceful contentment that reigned in Nazareth's home-life between Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we have a perfect illustration of the joy of family life. St. Paul tells us in today's epistle how that joy can be obtained by loving one another, bearing with and forgiving one another and giving thanks to God in all we do. The good example of parents as well as the earnest endeavor to fulfill their serious responsibilities as mothers and fathers will solve, more than any governmental remedy, the appalling enormity of child delinquency in our land today. Consecrate the family to the Sacred Heart today.

Jan. 20 — St. Sebastian

Daily our country honors the outstanding bravery of some of her soldiers by conferring various awards and decorations. Today the Church honors one of the noblest soldiers who ever wore a military uniform, St. Sebastian. He was born in Milan and became known at an early age for his courage and virtues. Hearing the Christians

Jan. 21 — St. Agnes

Only 13 years old and endowed with exceptional talents and physical beauty, Agnes withstood the proposals of suitors as well as the threats of the executioner. As she was led into the amphitheater, the spectators could hardly restrain their tears. To the coaxing of the executioner, the calm Agnes replied, "The spouse insults her Beloved if she hesitates. Why do you hesitate to strike? Kill this body, which might be loved by eyes I would not wish to please." Recommend all our women in the armed service to the protection of this virgin and martyr, St. Agnes.

Jan. 25 — Conversion of St. Paul

While on his way to persecute the Christians, Saul was struck down by a light from heaven. When he learned it was Jesus Whom he was persecuting, he immediately mended his ways and became the ardent Apostle, St. Paul. How important it is to cooperate with God's grace. Your faithfulness in this regard will bring countless other graces from God. Pray today for the spread of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

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Jan. 6 — Epiphany

Only a few shepherds were the sum total of the chosen people at the crib of our Divine Savior. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." But God's loving goodness reached out to the entire peoples of the world. He beckoned the gentile

world to come and pay Him homage by means of a brilliantly shining star. The Three Kings, representing the non-Jewish world, answered the invitation and were led to Christ their King. The light of our Catholic faith must not be hidden and practiced only in private. It must be an ever burning star of good example that will draw others to know and love Christ and His one true Church. Pray for the conversion of heathen nations.

Jan. 9 — Holy Family

In the happy, peaceful contentment that reigned in Nazareth's home-life between Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we have a perfect illustration of the joy of family life. St. Paul tells us in today's epistle how that joy can be obtained by loving one another, bearing with and forgiving one another and giving thanks to God in all we do. The good example of parents as well as the earnest endeavor to fulfill their serious responsibilities as mothers and fathers will solve, more than any governmental remedy, the appalling enormity of child delinquency in our land today. Consecrate the family to the Sacred Heart today.

Jan. 20 — St. Sebastian

Daily our country honors the outstanding bravery of some of her soldiers by conferring various awards and decorations. Today the Church honors one of the noblest soldiers who ever wore a military uniform, St. Sebastian. He was born in Milan and became known at an early age for his courage and virtues. Hearing the Christians



"They found the Child with Mary His Mother ... and opening their treasures they offered Him gifts."
(Matt. 2:11)

were losing courage in the face of such terrible tortures, he hastened to Rome in order to help them remain true soldiers of Christ. His words of encouragement, his intrepid faith and the many miracles which God wrought through him converted many unbelievers. He was denounced as a Chris-

tian to the emperor and was ordered to be pierced to death with arrows. A pious woman nursed him back to health. Hardly had his wounds closed when he approached the emperor and rebuked him for his wickedness. This time he received the full crown of martyrdom by being beaten to death with rods. Pray that our soldiers may imitate the fortitude and good example of St. Sebastian.

Jan. 21 — St. Agnes

Only 13 years old and endowed with exceptional talents and physical beauty, Agnes withstood the proposals of suitors as well as the threats of the executioner. As she was led into the amphitheater, the spectators could hardly restrain their tears. To the coaxing of the executioner, the calm Agnes replied, "The spouse insults her Beloved if she hesitates. Why do you hesitate to strike? Kill this body, which might be loved by eyes I would not wish to please." Recommend all our women in the armed service to the protection of this virgin and martyr, St. Agnes.

Jan. 25 — Conversion of St. Paul

While on his way to persecute the Christians, Saul was struck down by a light from heaven. When he learned it was Jesus Whom he was persecuting, he immediately mended his ways and became the ardent Apostle, St. Paul. How important it is to cooperate with God's grace. Your faithfulness in this regard will bring countless other graces from God. Pray today for the spread of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

Father Provincial Writes . . .

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to our good readers, and generous benefactors. It is the earnest prayer of our Fathers, Brothers and Students of the Southern Province of St. Augustine that God may bless you during this year of 1944 with good health, happiness, and especially that peace for which the whole world is longing so ardently and continually praying as never before.

On this occasion I wish also to extend to you our heartfelt thanks for your many generous gifts and prayers for S.V.D. Southern Mission Work.

A few weeks ago a non-Catholic gentleman in charge of one of our large news-gathering agencies discussed with me the foundation, purpose and outlook for the future of St. Augustine's Seminary. He was born and reared in the Deep South and is familiar with the race problem as it affects the Southland. Though he had passed our Seminary on Highway 90 time and again, it was surprising and interesting news to him that colored youths are being trained to become priests and missionaries according to the same high standards in scholarship and religious discipline as any other priest in the world. He considered this an outstanding undertaking in America which was deserving of generous support and should eventually help to produce responsible sound, Christian leadership among the colored people, so much needed today for a peaceful and just solution of the complicated race problem. Finally, he asked me: "How do you finance St. Augustine's Seminary and the great mission work which your Church is doing on such a large scale so efficiently and successfully? Your schools seem to be so much superior to others. Your church properties are well kept and are the pride of every community. How do you finance all these undertakings? Have you any endowments?"

I answered that there were no endowments of which I knew, except the firm and unshakable trust in God of our missionaries, and the deep faith and boundless charity of our zealous bish-

ops, priests and lay people, who assure the success of our mission work; for they see in their colored neighbor the image of God and a brother of Jesus Christ; they are fully conscious of and vitally concerned with the commands of Christ: "Love thy neighbor as thyself" and "Go ye and teach all nations." Such strong convictions beget in the hearts of our Catholic people that generosity which urges them to contribute so cheerfully to the stirring appeals of our bishops and priests and to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Indeed, our St. Augustine's Seminary and the various flourishing Mission Stations of the Society of the Divine Word could never have been begun, much less continued, without the generous annual contribution from the Commission for Catholic Missions among the Colored People and Indians, of which His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty of Philadelphia, is the chairman; from the American Board of Catholic Missions, over which the Most Reverend Archbishop Stritch of Chicago presides; from the Catholic Board for Mission Work among the Colored People, of which the Most Reverend Archbishop Spellman of New York is the President and the Very Reverend Father Kramer the Director General; finally from the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop Cushing, Archdiocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith of Boston and dauntless champion of the Native Priesthood in all Mission countries, who secured generous friends and benefactors to adopt some of our seminarians and aid in their education by annual scholarships and prayers.

Our schools would have stopped functioning long ago if it had not been for the monthly check for the teachers from the Reverend Father Kramer of New York. Almost alone he collects alms to support every month — just think of it — 346 *Sisters* in the Colored Mission Schools of the South. What a huge and heroic work which stems from a big heart, flooded and penetrated with real love for the colored children! These are our benefactors to whom we are

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

deeply indebted for the existence and growth of our Negro Mission Work in the South. It is only befitting that we express our sincerest thanks to all who have helped us in the past. Our gratitude will be expressed by the prayers,

especially at Holy Mass, of all the members of our community, of the children and converts of our Mission Stations. It is our prayer that we may be worthy of your trust and generous charity in the future. FATHER ECKERT, S.V.D.

The Golden Rule

RUTH TAYLOR

In an excellent editorial in the *New York Age* recently there was one sentence which greatly impressed me. "The only rule that works both ways is the Golden Rule."

The Golden Rule is the one rule that if sincerely followed could bring peace to all the world. Nation would no longer war against nation, nor people against people, class against class, race against race, creed against creed.

The Golden Rule is the solution to all the problems that beset our world today — and it begins with the individual. It does not require wealth to apply it. It needs but a sincere belief in justice and fair play and an honest desire to put into practice the second great commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The Golden Rule is a personal rule of life. It does not demand great sacrifices. It does not demand great deeds of courage. It demands only that each do unto his neighbor as he would be done by.

Under the Golden Rule, there are no master races or "Herrenvolk." The rich cannot say, "My interests are vested in me." The poor cannot cry, "My needs should come first." The employer cannot put his profits first, nor the worker his wages. Nor can any group, by virtue of class or color or creed, claim special privilege.

Under the Golden Rule there is no discrimination and all men have not only rights but also responsibilities. Rights are but the rewards of duties well done — and the full duty of man, which is the distinguishing mark that has lifted him above the beasts of the field, is that he assumes responsibility for the rights of his neighbor.

The Golden Rule is the law of brotherhood. It is the law of kindness and of friendliness. It is the law which can be followed by the humblest as well as by those in highest authority. The Golden Rule is the law of love — of that which is the fulfilling of the law.

★

Nunu, Glamor Boy, Number Zero

(Continued from page 15)

bleak stretches which these fires leave among the charred stumps are more dismal than the dead grass.

Thank goodness Spring comes quickly as the fig trees spread out their long wide leaves and the wild onions push their brash hollow stems up through the gray of the yard. Bluebirds flute muffled harmonies from the fence posts. The martins return to their home at the top of a tall pole in the backyard where they dart and sail to their hearts' content. In the river the water is high, thick and brown. The fogs settle gently and mysteriously with their hovering wet warmth. Pigs and their piglets run all over the town. This spring even Zeke's black earless pig leads a litter of six. The cows broke through Aunt Queen's fence and ate her early roses.

Spring comes so quickly that it almost sweeps you off your feet with joy at seeing God's own green again, so I do not blame Nunu for trying to frisk and to gambol even though there was work to do. I know that he will be angry when his mother reads this story to him, but I am sure that the story's added publicity will soon mend his broken heart, because the little rascal dearly loves to see his name in print.



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Father Leedie Conducts Mission

Father Alexander Leedie, assistant pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La., conducted a week's Mission at the Church of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Shreveport, La., in November. The attendance was excellent and much spiritual good was accomplished.

Thanks from St. John, La.

Father Leander Martin wishes to thank those generous benefactors who answered his appeal for Mass vestments for his mission church at St. John, La. Father adds that the annual bazaar, given for the benefit of both the parish in St. Martinville and the mission in St. John, was very successful this year. Yes, priests in the Southern Missions must at times become "show-men" and "circus-promoters" in order to

meet expenses and keep their missions going.

Squeak from Mouton Switch

The Rev. Maxine Williams took just enough time out from his many and varied duties to scribble a note and inform us that he has at last obtained a stove for the mission church at Mouton Switch, La., but so far has been unsuccessful in getting a brick flue built. Sorry, Father; we said Mass in that church-without-a-stove one Sunday last March, and we know how euphemistically *chilly* that church-now-with-a-stove-but-without-a-flue must be. If things get too bad, you might try sticking the stovepipe through the window and lightin' 'er up, anyway!

Wanderlust Again!

After staying on at the Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Miss., from the



Father Jerome Haines, S.V.D., assistant pastor of St. Thomas' Church, Pointe-à-la-Hache, La., teaches Catechism to some of his colored charges down on the lower reaches of the Mississippi River.

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In October Father conducted a Mission at Immaculate Conception Church in Augusta, Ga., and during the month of November Father was busy with Missions at St. Peter Claver's Church, Holy Trinity, Ala., and Sacred Heart Church, Sulphur Springs, Miss.

While in Augusta, Ga., Father Howard was invited to address the student body of Paine College. There were only about ten Catholics among the more than 300 students, but the talk was very well received.

In between his Mission engagements Father also showed the now much-talked-of technicolor movie of life at St. Augustine's Seminary three times in Augusta, Ga., twice in Atlanta, Ga., twice in Phenix City, Ala., once in Holy Trinity, Ala., twice in Montgomery, Ala., and once in Tuskegee, Ala. Then Father managed to squeeze into a train among a lot of soldiers and much baggage and some civilians. Thus he returned to the Seminary to see if he could find any Thanksgiving duck still in the pot. He did; but he's still wondering if that duck owned anything else besides feet, wings and neck!

**BUY A BOND THIS WEEK
AND EVERY WEEK!**

**NEXT MONTH IS
CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH**

**CSMC MISSION DRAMA
CONTEST**

A mission drama contest, open to professional and non-professional writers, was announced by the national offices of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade in Cincinnati, December 1. The purpose of the contest is to provide plays on a missionary theme for use, without royalty, in school and parish dramatic clubs. The sponsorship of the contest is shared by the Maryknoll Society (Maryknoll, N. Y.), through which the money for the prize-winning manuscript was donated. There will be three prizes, \$125, \$50, and \$25, respectively. All manuscripts must be submitted to the national offices of the Crusade at the Crusade Castle, Shattuc Avenue, Cincinnati (26), Ohio, not later than Easter Monday, April 10, 1944.

Entries will be judged first on their conformity to the rules of style for dramatic writing; in other words, the first standard for judging an entry will be whether or not it is "a good play." However, the theme must be "missionary," according to one or more of the following rules, as stated in the contest announcements:

1) The development of the plot must give recognition in some way to the principles of world Christianity; that is to say, the leading actors must be motivated by Christian ideals.

2) The action of the play must deal with Catholic missionary work and life, in the United States or in any other country, in one or other of the following ways: by portraying actual missionary work; by depicting life in a region where missionaries are working; by dealing with the problem of vocation to missionary service; or by portraying the relation of the missionary ideal to Catholic life in general.

Prize-winning manuscripts will become the property of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. Should any prize-winning play, however, be used subsequently for professional stage presentation or adaptation to motion pictures or radio, the author will be consulted and arrangement made for sharing of royalties. Plays not winning prizes will likewise become the property of the Crusade, to employ in any way useful to the missions that it sees fit, unless the contestants request their return. In such cases, return postage should be enclosed with the manuscripts.



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CHILDREN'S CORNER



My dear Boys and Girls:

I wish all of you a very Happy New Year of 1944!

I don't know what New Year resolutions you have already made, but here is one which all of you ought to make:

I resolve that every day during 1944 I am going to THANK God for all the good things He does for me, and tell Him I am SORRY for all the bad things I do.

Make that resolution and keep it, and 1944 will be a blessed year for you.

In the past weeks I have received so many nice letters that I have decided to use up all of the CHILDREN'S CORNER this time just to print all of those letters, or at least, as many as I can get on these pages. I want all of you to read the nice things which other boys and girls have written. And of course, I want to hear from you sometimes, too.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: I am saying an "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" every night for you. I hope to come and visit Bay St. Louis someday. I want to go to St. Mary's Academy in New Orleans when I finish Holy Family School. I received my report card last month and I had four A's.

My mother went to Mobile to visit a sick aunt. We miss her very much, and hope she will be back soon. I hope you can come back here again.

Father, please remember me in your prayers, and ask the priests in Bay Saint

Louis to pray for me and my aunt. May God bless you. Sincerely yours,

Willie Mary Osborne, Grade 7
105 Avenue G
Apalachicola, Fla.

Glad you got four A's on your report card, Willie Mary. Keep it up. Hope your aunt gets better; I will include her in my prayers. Write again.

Dear Father Howard: How are you? We are all doing fine. I am in school again hoping that in June I will climb another step higher. Of course, I am getting along fine in school.

Father, I will pray for you to be a good priest, and I want you to pray for me to be a good girl. I will ask Jesus to bless and always look over you.

Oh yes! Father Reichmeyer is going away. He is not coming back any more. I am so sorry; he really was a nice priest. I will always remember him in my prayers. I will never forget the good deeds Father has done for me and everyone else here. We have another pastor; I don't exactly know his name, but I think it is Father Bernard Callaghan. He hasn't been here long, but I think he is all right, but I miss Father Reichmeyer very much.

Well, Father, I will always pray for you and your work, and always remember me in your prayers. Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Mary Payne, age 16
LeBeau, La.

I am sorry to hear that Father Reichmeyer has been changed; he did very fine work there. But I am sure that your new pastor is going to do his very best to continue the good work. Thanks for your prayers; may the dear Lord bless you and give you success in your schoolwork.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Dear Father Howard: How are you getting along? I am glad you arrived at the Seminary safely. I was glad to have you come and preach the Mission to us. I learned a lot of things from the Mission, and I was grateful for it, and for the things you taught us altar boys. I know my altar boy prayers almost right off the card. I am going to try to live up to those good things. I was sorry when you left.

I remember you in my prayers. Sister told us that you were going to give a Mission in Georgia, so I prayed that it would be a success. Please ask the boys at the Seminary to pray for me. And some day I hope to come to the Seminary and join you with the work of God. Yours gratefully,

Pleasant James, Grade 6
174 Fourth Street
Apalachicola, Fla.

Pleasant, that is a very fine thing if you feel you would like to come to the Seminary and study for the priesthood. You have a couple of years more before you finish grade school; now during that time pray hard and ask the dear Jesus to help you. Be faithful in attending and serving Mass; be a good boy, and one day, please God, you will "join me with the work of God." The Mission in Georgia was very successful, and I am sure that your prayers had a lot to do with it. Thanks, and write again.

Dear Father Howard: May God bless you for your good works. I thank you for the little talk you gave us schoolchildren every morning when you were here. In my prayers I always say a prayer for you that you will continue to carry on God's work.

I try to go to Mass on Wednesday in honor of our Lady, and on Friday in honor of the Sacred Heart. I am praying more earnestly than before for a special intention, that one of the boys in our class will become a Catholic, then our grade will be 100 per cent

Catholic, even if the other grades are not. Father, will you please remember me in your prayers? Respectfully yours in Christ,

Vilma James, Grade 7
174 — 4th St.,
Apalachicola, Fla.

Thanks for your prayers, Vilma. Of course, I will remember you in my prayers. It is a great act of charity to pray for the conversion of someone. God will bless you for that, and let us hope that your class will be 100 per cent Catholic before graduation.

Dear Father Howard: I was so sorry when you had to leave that I almost cried. I hope you will be back next year to give another Mission. I am very grateful for what you did for us, especially for me. I am learning my altar boy prayers. I would like to visit the Seminary one day. Please ask the Fathers to pray for me, and I will remember you in my prayers.

I am doing fine in my lessons, and hope to do so all the term. Father, please pray for me that one day I may enter the Seminary. Gratefully yours,

Ira Watson, Grade 6
Holy Family School
Apalachicola, Fla.

Ira, how do you look when you "almost cry"? You are too big a boy for that. I am glad to know that you want to come to the Seminary. Keep on being a good boy, and I will pray that the Lord may grant your wish.

Dear Father Howard: I only wish you could have stayed here longer. Every morning I help the little children to come out of the church like you showed them. Ask the boys at the Seminary to pray for me.

There will be two more Catholics in our class soon. Yesterday some boys went to Father and asked him if they could be Boy Scouts. He told them yes, so many of them are joining. I joined in September and now I am a tenderfoot studying for second class. Respectfully yours,

Cephas Rhodes, Grade 8
97 Avenue K
Apalachicola, Fla.

That is very nice of you, Cephas, to help the little children. I am glad to hear that two more of the larger children are taking instructions. Write again and let me know when you become a second-class scout.

Dear Father Howard: This is the first time I ever have written to a colored priest. I really enjoy writing to you. My name is Patricia Gumbs. I am 12 years of age, and I



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

attend St. Patrick's School, and am in the 6th grade.

Vera brought the MESSENGER for me to read. I enjoyed reading it very much, especially the CHILDREN'S CORNER. Father, do you know Vera Maurice? She is a good friend of mine, and I like her very much. She promised to let me read her MESSENGERS until I can subscribe.

Father, I attend Mass every morning, and from now on I will remember you in my prayers. Please, Father, say a prayer for my two brothers in the Army. I am, Respectfully yours,

Patricia Ann Gumbs, age 12
17 Stewart Avenue
Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

I am very happy to make your acquaintance, Patricia. Yes, I know Vera, but did not know that she had moved to Huntington. I will ask God to bring your two brothers safe home again. I certainly appreciate your prayers, and I hope that you will write again.

Dear Father Howard: Your Mission at Immaculate Conception Church was of much interest to me. I was very sorry when you left. The Mission has helped me to become better than before.

I read one of your MESSENGERS, and it was so interesting that I decided to subscribe for it. The pictures you showed us were very nice. I enjoyed them very much. They should give many of the children ideas how they should act in school and other places.

Father, I don't expect you to answer my letter right back, because I realize you don't have time to write me like I have. I have been going to church ever since you left. I often think about you, and read the little instructions on the back of the picture you gave us. I hope you can come and deliver the Mission again next year. Please excuse bad writing, but I can't write better. Respectfully yours,

Addie Lee Kelly
(Immaculate Conception School)
1224 — 12th Street
Augusta, Ga.

Thanks for your interesting letter, Addie Lee. I am glad that you do not expect me to answer "right back." Because of my other work, this is about the best I can do for an answer right now. But don't become discouraged. Write again.

Dear Father Howard: Just a few lines to let you hear from me. November 5 was my birthday. I am 8 years old. I did not have a party. I wish you were down here. We have another fair in town for the poor chil-

dren. It is where the new park is at Gordon and O Streets.

Since you left I have been away to a farther land than you — Boston, Mass.

I have been serving Mass 1 year and 5 months and am still serving. And if I be living I will still serve till I be gone by-by. But I am still going to church. Well, God bless you. Yours truly,

Beecher Clement Anderson, age 8
1519 N. Davis Street
Pensacola, Fla.

Beecher, that is a grand letter. Though somewhat late now, still I want to say: Happy Birthday and congratulations on having reached the ripe old age of eight! Correct, I have never been to Boston, so you have one on me there. You have certainly been serving Mass a long time for your age, and I hope you don't go "by-by" too soon, so you will continue serving Mass for a long, long time to come. Be a good boy, now, and write again soon; don't wait until you have another birthday.

* * *

Take my heart, Sweet Jesus,
And never let it go;
Teach me how to love You,
I want to love You so!

* * *

During this New Year pray harder than ever for peace, and for more missionary priests and Sisters to work in the Negro Missions. And be sure not to forget me in your prayers during 1944. A Happy and Blessed New Year to all my dear little friends!

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

● REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS ●

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12:46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rev. Anthony Scholzen; died in Sleepy Eye, Minn., October 5, 1943.

Mrs. Joseph Boyer; died in New Orleans, La., October, 1943.

Mrs. Etta Butler; died in Chicago, Ill., September 23, 1943.

Mr. John Carlson; died in New Orleans, La., November 23, 1943.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Enroll in the

MISSION MASS LEAGUE

and thus cooperate in the mission work of the Society of the Divine Word by means of prayer, almsgiving and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGES: Members share 1) in the 730 Holy Masses said annually for the intentions of the living members and in the 360 Masses said annually for the deceased members; 2) in the good works of the Fathers, Brothers and Seminarians of the Society of the Divine Word; and 3) in various indulgences.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$1.00

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP — \$10.00

**ENROLL YOUR SON, HUSBAND, OR BROTHER WHO IS SERVING IN
THE ARMED FORCES OF HIS COUNTRY**

For further information write to

THE REVEREND DIRECTOR

Mission Mass League

St. Augustine's Seminary

BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

STUDENT BURSSES

A Burse, or Scholarship, of \$5,000 will take care of the complete education and training of one of our students for the priesthood. Won't you help us complete one of the following incomplete Burses?

Sacred Heart	\$3,703.00
St. Augustine	874.25
St. Matthias	839.50
St. Jude	574.00
St. Elizabeth	500.00
Holy Ghost	185.87
St. Madeleine Sophie Barat	100.00

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BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

PUBLICATION OFFICE
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Vol. XXII, No. 2
FEBRUARY, 1944

Postmaster: See inside cover



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NOTICE!

Due to conditions beyond our control we are no longer able to offer our readers hand-bound annual volumes of ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER.

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TO MAKE THE
WORK OF THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
AMONG
NEGROES
BETTER
KNOWN

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"The Magazine with a Message"

TO AID THE
Cause for which
S.V.D.
MISSIONARIES
ARE WORKING —
MORE
NEGRO PRIESTS
AND
RELIGIOUS

A Catholic magazine, published monthly, except July and August, at Techny, Ill., by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXII

FEBRUARY, 1944

Number 2

THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V.D.

I lost my heart in the roads and alleys
That branch off the Thoroughfare of Life,
While I was traveling deep dark valleys,
Meeting the world, the flesh and the devil,
In secret — open — and constant strife.

I lost my heart while I was contending
For possession of it with the flesh's lust;
And the very thing that I was defending
Slipped itself from my loosened will-clasp,
Vanished away in pursuit of dust.

It vanished, and conscious of this disaster,
I called through the gloom, but the night was still;
My heart merely fled, now fast, now faster,
Thrilled by the new-found joy of freedom,
And faded over the distant hill.

As a hunter follows the hunted, feeling
His way, and making the thickets part,
To see what the grove might be concealing,
Careful to leave none unexamined,
So followed I, and pursued my heart.

Through stifling haunts of soul-bought laughter
It wandered, sick with the burning awe
Of one who has doubtful freedom after
A loving bondage was broken, coming
Close to the edge of forbidding law.

I followed, tenaciously pursuing
This errant heart of my life that fled;
Fearful that it might be undoing
The work of years where I had labored,
And striking its foolish own self dead.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

I found my heart when day was kneeling
For evening prayer in the graying sky,
And shadows mysteriously came stealing,
Treading the ground with feet of silence,
Treading the ground and passing by.

I found my heart where red lamps glimmer,
And candlebeams finger a Golden Door;
Where clamor and noise and sin grow dimmer,
Where blessings hover like veils of incense,
I found and I gathered it up once more.

I have found it under the Stole of Pardon,
A penitent, like the Prodigal when
He returned to his youth's forgotten garden,
So returned my heart to the Breast that loved it,
And shall not lose it again, again.

MISSIONARY IN AFRICA

HAROLD RIGNEY, S.V.D., *Chaplain, U. S. Army*

Rev. George Wilson, S.V.D., was the eleventh American missionary to come into the African mission field



Rev. George Wilson, S.V.D.

of the Society of the Divine Word. He arrived here November 4, 1941.

Born in New York City, Father Wilson received his priestly education at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., a seminary for training Negro priests.

Father Wilson is one of the three American Negro priests of the Gold Coast missions who are doing splendid work preaching the Gospel to the tribes that sold their fathers into slavery to the white slave traders.

In the African city where he has labored, this dynamic, obliging and pious priest is known as a linguist, organist and popular confessor. Besides English, Father Wilson can get on in French, German and two African languages. He knows a third African language sufficiently well for confessions. It is little wonder, then, that Father Wilson has been selected for the arduous and exacting task of beginning missionary work in an entirely new station. He is the man who can do it.



Father M. Andrew Lawrence, M.S.S.T., and some of his flock
in Sulphur Springs, Mississippi

THEY CALL IT SULPHUR SPRINGS

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- A Colored Catholic Center
- In the Heart of Mississippi

I first heard about it only accidentally. It was last summer, while I was in Jackson, Miss., helping out over the week-end in Holy Ghost Church, that I heard the pastor, Father Francis Baltes, S.V.D., mention in the course of a conversation something about a "church for Negro Catholics in Sulphur Springs, Miss." I made a mental note of it at the time, and a few weeks later, when His Excellency, Bishop Gerow of Natchez, was visiting at our seminary in Bay Saint Louis, Miss., I asked him about this "church in Sulphur Springs."

"Yes," said His Excellency, "I know it well. It is Sacred Heart Church, just recently transferred to the care of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. There are a few old-line colored Catholic families in Sulphur Springs; some

of them have been Catholics for generations."

Well, this was news! Most of the 5,200 Negro Catholics in the State of Mississippi are converts. I knew that the majority of the old-time Catholics are living along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, many of them having migrated from Louisiana. I also knew, or rather *thought* I knew, that besides the seven churches on the Gulf Coast the only other churches for colored Catholics in Mississippi are located in the cities of Jackson, Meridian, Greenville, Vicksburg, Yazoo City and Natchez with its three missions in Harrison, Laurel and Cranfield. And now suddenly here was another Catholic church in a settlement of old colored Catholics in the very heart of Mississippi. I became curious to know more about Sulphur Springs.

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

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Procuring a few railroad timetables I paged through them trying to find Sulphur Springs, Miss., but had no luck. A diligent scrutiny of various bus schedules produced the same result. Then I spread an auto road map before me and ran my eye and my finger all over it, but alas! it was futile. I found *Hot Springs*, Ark., and *Cold Springs*, Tenn. I found *Warm Springs*, Ga., and *Cool Springs*, S.C. I found *Red Springs*, N.C., *White Springs*, Fla., and *Blue Springs*, Miss. I found *Rocky Springs*, Tenn., *Laurel Springs*, N.C., *Crystal Springs*, Miss., *Mineral Springs*, N.C., and *Powder Springs*, Ga., but *Sulphur Springs* Miss., just wasn't on the map!

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And he did. He "carried on" for a good 40 miles north and east of Jackson. He "carried on" till the broad stretch of highway became a narrow strip of concrete which, after many miles, suddenly gave way to gravel and finally merged into the stickiness and slipperiness of a good old Mississippi mud and clay road. And still he "carried on."

It was night now, and Father An-



drew chatted merrily as we rolled on through the darkness. But as we neared our destination I was mildly excited and kept peering ahead, expecting at any moment to see the first lights of Sulphur Springs loom up out of the inky blackness.

We climbed hills, dipped into valleys, and rounded long sweeping curves. Finally in the very middle of the blackness, Father brought the car to a stop and announced triumphantly: "Well, here we are!"

I climbed out of the car and looked around. There were just three lights visible: one light in the house ahead of us and the two headlights on the car!

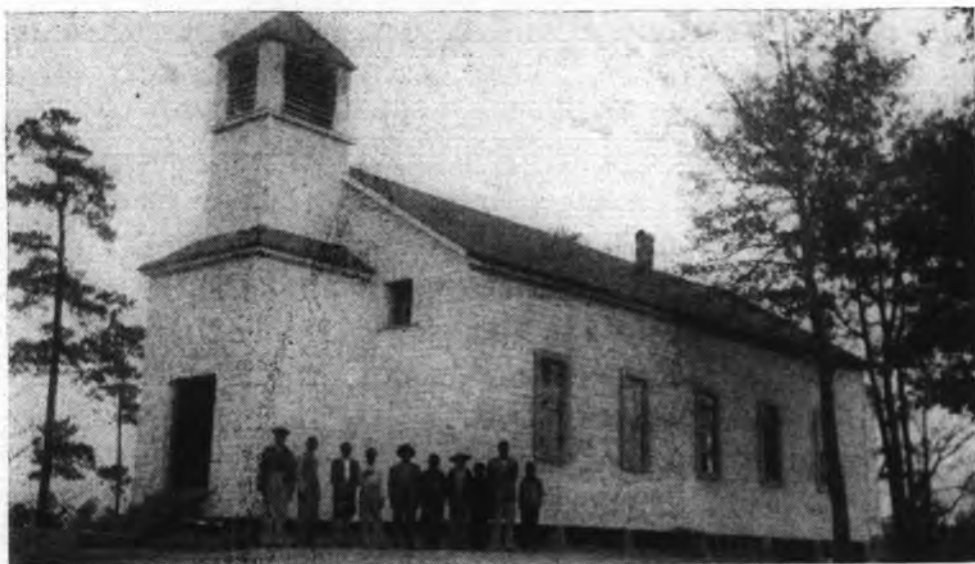
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Father Andrew is the only Catholic priest in a territory covering two and a half counties in Mississippi.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

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Sacred Heart
Church, Sulphur
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looked like this a
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tarian Sister were
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school classes in it.

NOW →
after renovation
and a good coat
of paint



He has charge of four churches, three for white and one for colored Catholics. One of the churches is 2 miles from the rectory, another is 18 miles, and the third is 30 miles away (when the road is passable; in bad weather the trip is 50 miles each way). By special permission Father celebrates three Masses every Sunday morning at 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00, each one in a different place, so you can imagine how many miles he covers. He usually gets around to "breakfast" at about 2:00 P.M.

Two Trinitarian Brothers, Brother Peter Claver and Brother Edward, are stationed with Father Andrew and help him in his mission work.

But to get back to our story. Sacred Heart Church, where I was to give the mission, is about two miles from Father's house. To get there we drove along a gravel road for about a mile, till the church came into sight. It stands alone on a slight elevation with trees on the right and on the left, and behind and before. It is a small wooden structure with a fresh coat of white paint on the outside. Father told me that the building, now well over twenty

years old, had looked like it was about ready to cave in, and that he and the Brothers and the parishioners had been working like beavers for the past three weeks in order to get it ready for the mission.

And the results of their work were evident. The interior was clean and bright; there were new statues, and a neatly arranged liturgical altar occupied the center of the sanctuary.

The church seats about 100 persons.

"I was afraid we wouldn't have enough seats for the mission," Father confided to me, "so I went down and borrowed all the benches from the Baptist church, a few miles from here — of course, with the minister's permission."

Father was confident that we would need the extra seats, but when I stood on the church steps and looked around and couldn't see even one house anywhere in sight, I had my doubts.

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

give special catechetical instructions to the children at 4 o'clock each afternoon. I was still more surprised when I returned at 4 o'clock and found just as many grown-ups as children present.

And then it began to rain. By the time we got back to the rectory it was pouring. Father Andrew began to get uneasy. At 7:30 that night it was still raining. Father shook his head mournfully and sighed:

"Well, Father, there is no need of our trying to get to the church tonight. With all this rain the car would probably stall, or else we'd be slipping and sliding all over the road and possibly end up in the ditch. And even if we did make it to the church, there'd be nobody there. The poor people are just not able to get out over the country roads and through the woods on a night like this. It looks very much like this is the end of the beginning of our mission for tonight!"

"But there *may* be a few people there," I said, more from a desire to console Father than from any personal conviction. "Anyway, we might give it a try."

And we did. As I think back over that trip now, I am certainly glad that when we started out we first said a prayer together for a safe journey. Father Andrew, the two Brothers and I were not quite heavy enough to hold the light Plymouth steady. Sometimes it went sideways and a couple of times it slid uncomfortably close to the ditch. But we finally reached the church.

We saw immediately that someone had already lit the kerosene lamps (there are no electric lights),

and when we entered the church we were greatly surprised to see that it was over half filled with people. My estimation of these good country folk immediately shot up another 100% or so. They were really taking the mission seriously.

The attendance increased the next night and the next. By Wednesday night the church was crowded with about 200 persons.

Everything was going along fine, but there was a fly in the ointment. On Saturday the Baptist minister wanted his benches back for his own services on Sunday. What were we going to do? The few pews in the church would not even begin to seat the people who were attending the mission.

A few of the men got together and found a solution, albeit a rather primitive one. They sawed a few tree trunks into circular blocks. They placed these blocks, bark and all, inside the church and laid rough planks across them. Result: benches (after a fashion). But they served the purpose.

Sunday night almost 300 people tried to crowd into the little church for the closing of the mission. Where they came from I don't know; but they came — by automobile, in wagons, on horseback. They crowded into the pews and filled the makeshift benches to the edges. Some even sat on the small kneelers directly in front of the Communion rail. As many as possibly could squeezed into the choir loft. The rest stood in the back of the church, in the vestibule, on the steps, outside.

"There were many non-Catholics here tonight," Father had said to

(Continued on page 45)

THE CONVERT-MAKER

VERNON DAUPHIN, S.V. D.



Rt. Rev. Msgr. William R. McCann

One of the busiest men in New York City is Rt. Rev. Monsignor William R. McCann, zealous Harlem pastor of two flocks, St. Charles Borromeo's and St. Aloysius' Parishes! Msgr. McCann, who celebrated his 25th anniversary in the Priesthood last June, can look back with satisfaction upon his ten years of labor among the colored people in Harlem. Ten years ago in January, the eyes of Catholic America were focused on St. Charles' Parish as Msgr. McCann presented His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal Hayes, officiating on the occasion, with his first class for public Baptism — 72 converts in all. And, as Catholic eyes, at first skeptical, opened wider, this rarity became a commonplace event in Harlem; it was repeated three times yearly in both of Monsignor's parishes.

Looking back over the span of ten years the Monsignor and his six assistants can count over 5,000 converts to the Faith, marking the greatest influx of converts into the Catholic Church in America. This fact was widely observed even by the official organ of the Holy See, *L'Osservatore Romano*, when it paid glowing tribute to the rapid spreading of Catholicism in Harlem.

In 1933 Monsignor McCann, as pastor with two assistants — all volunteers — received his appointment for St. Charles' Parish, whose parochial school is staffed by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1935 St. Aloysius' Parish was also placed in his care. St. Aloysius' Parochial School is staffed by the Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, one of the younger orders of colored Sisters in the States.

At a time like this, when prejudice increased by war-strain threatens the friendly relations between races, Monsignor aptly remarks:

"I am filled with pride as I think of the courage and ambition of my people bravely struggling against the cruel tide of prejudice to bring us to the rights and respect we should enjoy. . . . I reverence their heroism, leading saintly lives under conditions that would drive others to degradation and despair."

Monsignor further remarks: "I look especially to young priests from among our boys, to take the place of our Fathers, who must some day yield to age."

In October of 1937 Father McCann's splendid work among the

(Continued on page 40)

The Man Behind the Negro Mission Schools

V. REV. JOSEPH ECKERT, S.V.D.

- He lives only that they may keep alive and thrive
- He begs — but gives away all that he receives



"The Man behind the Negro Mission Schools" — Rev. Edward Kramer, D.D. (center) — on a visit to St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay Saint Louis, Miss. With him are Rev. John Gasper, S.V.D., former rector of the seminary, and Mother Mary Elizabeth (at Father Kramer's left), Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Family, a community of colored nuns who conduct 27 Negro Mission schools

During the last twenty years we have witnessed a great expansion and an abundant harvest of souls in the Negro Mission Field of the United States. No single factor has contributed more to this phenomenal growth and success than the mission school. Every missionary is aware of the fact that it is rather difficult, often almost impossible, to reach the older people and to instruct them in the Catholic doctrine — even if instructions are thorough and given over a long period of time — so that they will fully grasp, think, and live the Catholic Faith. The basic training must begin with the children if the mission is to grow and prosper, for the little children will lead the older ones into the Church. The

Holy Spirit truly said: "A little child shall lead them."

Therefore the school is the first and immediate concern of every missionary, for therein he visualizes his life's program and ultimate success. Children will come and learn easily and be imbued with the spirit of the Faith and gradually live the life of Faith. Their parents are only too eager and willing to make special sacrifices in money and comfort, if their children are only educated by our Sisters, even though they fully realize, and are told by the missionary, that their children eventually will become Catholic. The War has taught many the bitter lesson that education is required if their boy wishes to advance in the

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

army or if a defense worker has ambitions to land and hold a good profitable job. Today all our mission schools are crammed to capacity; hundreds had to be turned away for lack of room and teachers.

However, the school, once established, is and will remain a source of constant worries and severe headaches to our missionaries — worries caused by the lack of teachers or by the necessary maintenance which demands a continual flow of finances. Almost all mission stations in the South are unable to support the priest and the church, much less the complicated apparatus of a school. There are not enough church members, and these are not blessed with the goods of the world. Parents do bear part of the support of the school by paying some tuition, but that is by no means sufficient to defray the meager salaries of the teachers, not to speak of the ever-needed repairs and the new equipment required to keep up the standard demanded by the State School Board.

For the ambitious and zealous missionary there is no other way left but to look for outside help to keep the school a-going. Here the Catholic Board for Mission Work among the Colored People comes to his assistance. This noble organization was launched by Cardinal Gibbons in 1907 for the purpose of collecting funds for poor mission schools in the South. From its very beginning it has paid part of the teachers' salaries. Today it is under the able and efficient direction of the Very Reverend Dr. Kramer, who more than twenty years ago was assigned by the Bishops to assist the first Director General, the late Monsignor Burke.

Upon the death of Monsignor Burke, Father Kramer succeeded him in this important and responsible position. And we missionaries know that he has done a good job, almost singlehanded. He has kept himself in the background of the Negro Mission Work. His name or picture is rarely, if ever, seen in our Catholic papers; and yet he is the



One of the teachers and some of the little tots in the South who depend on Father Kramer to keep their little Mission school a-going

The Man Behind the Negro Mission Schools

V. REV. JOSEPH ECKERT, S.V.D.

- He lives only that they may keep alive and thrive
- He begs — but gives away all that he receives



"The Man behind the Negro Mission Schools" — Rev. Edward Kramer, D.D. (center) — on a visit to St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay Saint Louis, Miss. With him are Rev. John Gasper, S.V.D., former rector of the seminary, and Mother Mary Elizabeth (at Father Kramer's left), Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Family, a community of colored nuns who conduct 27 Negro Mission schools

During the last twenty years we have witnessed a great expansion and an abundant harvest of souls in the Negro Mission Field of the United States. No single factor has contributed more to this phenomenal growth and success than the mission school. Every missionary is aware of the fact that it is rather difficult, often almost impossible, to reach the older people and to instruct them in the Catholic doctrine — even if instructions are thorough and given over a long period of time — so that they will fully grasp, think, and live the Catholic Faith. The basic training must begin with the children if the mission is to grow and prosper, for the little children will lead the older ones into the Church. The

Holy Spirit truly said: "A little child shall lead them."

Therefore the school is the first and immediate concern of every missionary, for therein he visualizes his life's program and ultimate success. Children will come and learn easily and be imbued with the spirit of the Faith and gradually live the life of Faith. Their parents are only too eager and willing to make special sacrifices in money and comfort, if their children are only educated by our Sisters, even though they fully realize, and are told by the missionary, that their children eventually will become Catholic. The War has taught many the bitter lesson that education is required if their boy wishes to advance in the

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

army or if a defense worker has ambitions to land and hold a good profitable job. Today all our mission schools are crammed to capacity; hundreds had to be turned away for lack of room and teachers.

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One has to meet Father Kramer only once, or read his breezy and fiery editorials in the magazine, *Our Colored Missions*, to find the secret of his success. It is a fact that his heart and soul are penetrated with an unflagging sense of duty and aflame with true and Christlike zeal and charity for the souls of Negroes; that he is deeply concerned about the spiritual and temporal welfare of the colored people in our country; that he is eager for justice and charity to become the rules by which the colored people shall be judged, and treated. During the last twenty years he has made many friends by his unbounded zeal and humble conduct among the priests and lay people so *that today he is able to send a monthly check of \$25 to 346 Sisters* in the mission schools of the South who otherwise would have to go without this little support.

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Those missionaries who are recipients of his benefactions, know how to evaluate the apostolic zeal and generous aid given by Father Kramer. They have told or written me often that they would be compelled to curtail their activities in the school, if not indeed close down entirely, if that much-awaited check for the Sisters' salaries did not come regularly.

It is the ardent wish and daily prayer of every missionary that God may be good to Father Kramer and keep him in good health for many years to come. I know that our readers will help Father Kramer to write *those 346 checks every month by joining his Sisters' Sponsors Society or by subscribing for his magazine: OUR COLORED MISSIONS*. Both subscriptions are only **ONE DOLLAR A MONTH**.

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February is

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

See to it that your family has the benefit of *at least one* Catholic WEEKLY and *one* Catholic MONTHLY publication

FEBRUARY'S SAINTS

Feb. 2 — Candlemas

Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Candlemas Day are the names by which today's feast is called. In a certain sense all these names are correctly given to it. Candles are blessed on this day. Mary observed the old Law concerning the purification of mothers after childbirth, tho' due to the virginal birth of her Son, she was in no way bound to fulfill that regulation. First place in the mind of the Church and the main object of the feast is the presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Have you a blessed candle at home? Light it today and may it be a symbol of your ardent faith and love for Christ and His one true Church.

Feb. 5 — St. Agatha

Sicily is known by most people today as the land through which our troops have passed. It is the birthplace of many great saints, and today we honor one of its noble daughters in the virgin and martyr Agatha. She lived in the middle of the third century when being a Christian required intrepid fortitude and constancy. The Roman officials tried various methods to persuade her to denounce Christ but in vain. They then decided to rob her of her chastity. But her cooperation with God's grace, which is sufficient and powerful to conquer all temptation, enabled her to successfully overcome all the seductions of immoral persons. She preserved both her faith and chastity, but to do so she had to die a martyr's death in the year 251. In temptations against holy purity call on her for help and protection.



"They took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.... And behold ... a man named Simeon ... received Him into his arms and blessed God."
(Luke 2:22, 25, 28)

Feb. 15 — SS. Faustinus & Jovita

More than eighteen hundred long years have passed since these two martyrs lived, taught and defended the Catholic Faith. They were brothers, one was a priest and the other (Jovita) a deacon. The Emperor Hadrian ordered that many and severe tortures be inflicted upon them, but they, like the Apostles, rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer something for the Name of Christ. They were finally beheaded in the year 120. Christ told His disciples — and we claim to be such al-

so — that they should let their light shine before men. Your good example of attending Mass and receiving the Sacraments frequently is an excellent way of fulfilling that command of our divine Master.

Feb. 23 — Ash Wednesday

"Remember, man, that you are dust and unto dust you will return." That is what the priest says as he places the ashes on your forehead today. Lent begins today. It is a season of penance. Make it such this year. The worldwide sufferings of this present war should convince us more than ever of the necessity of doing penance. The Church is much more lenient in the laws of fast and abstinence than she was in former ages. But she in no way dispenses her children from the obligation of penance. Make this sacred season a very serious and fruitful one by frequent (daily if possible) attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion.

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Thanksgiving Day

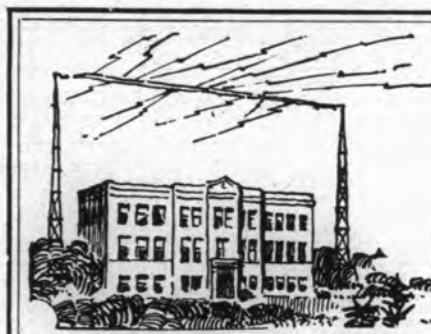
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In the evening the Community enjoyed an informal entertainment made up of a humorous comic reel; an interesting and informative quiz session in which various members were called upon to display their knowledge of art; followed by an enjoyable half-hour of tall story-telling in which Father Kist was at his best.

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Seminary

BROADCAST

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the only Catholic Negro Seminary

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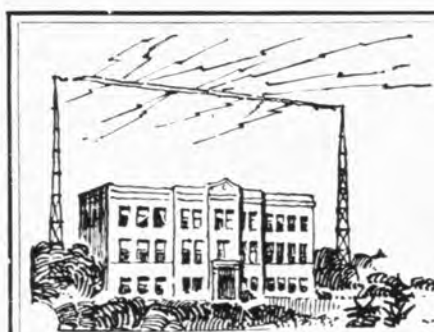
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THE SOLEMN OPENING MASS OF THE MIDWESTERN CLERGY CONFERENCE at St. Rita's Church, Indianapolis, Ind., was celebrated by Rev. Arnold J. Garvy, S.J., assisted by Revs. Charles Murphy and Melchior Lochtefeld

Semi-Annual Midwestern Clergy Conference

Priests working in the Negro Missions of the Midwest meet

The Midwestern Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare held its October semi-annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., at St. Rita's Parish. Composed of priests who labor in the Negro Missions of the Midwestern states, the Conference has a membership of 114 Catholic priests.

The Conference opened with a Solemn High Mass celebrated in St. Rita's Church by Rev. Arnold J. Garvy, S.J., of Chicago, Ill.; assisted by Rev. Charles Murphy, pastor of St. Anne's Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, as Deacon, and Rev. Melchior Lochtefeld, C.P.P.S., pastor of St. Edward's Church, Cleveland, Ohio, as Subdeacon.

A public meeting was held at the Indianapolis Y.W.C.A. at which the Bishop of Indianapolis, the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, D.D., spoke. Senator Robert L. Brokenburr and a number of other notables delivered interesting talks.

The two-day conference closed with the election of officers. Rev. Bernard Strange, host to the Conference and pastor of St. Rita's, was re-elected president, while Rev. John F. Ryan, pastor of Holy Name of Mary Church, Chicago, Ill., was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, D.D., Archbishop of Chicago, is Episcopal Moderator of the Midwestern Clergy Conference.

BATTLING BRUCE MEETS HIS MATCH

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

● A Short Story

Battling Bruce grunted. He had ducked only to meet a stinging uppercut that made the left half of his face numb. Mechanically, he shuffled back out of danger, his opponent following cautiously. As he was being thus stalked, all kinds of thoughts were swarming through his head.

"Battling Bruce!" Huh! He sure hadn't been doing much battling for the last seven rounds. On the contrary, he had been taking enough punishment for two men. Yet, he knew he was good. In the Army, where he was a corporal, he was the best in his division.

At this point in his interior soliloquy, he feinted with his left, then grunted again as the right that he had tried to whip over behind it was knocked aside. Ouch! A glove, gleaming with sweat, thudded against the side of his head. He back-tracked staggeringly, narrowing his eyes to hide the dazed look he felt must be in them.

His pals, the fellows in his division, were all yelling for him to get in there and fight. Gee, they were swell guys! He had licked many of them with these same gloves. He was representing them, and had to make good. But they didn't know what he was up against. Every punch he threw seemed to be met and blocked. He was using every trick he knew to reach his opponent, but it almost seemed as if he were an open book, so accurately were his movements read.

Battling Bruce was becoming desperate. He took a quick step forward, and ran into a flurry of arms and gloves that made him think of a heavy rain. His own shoulders were pumping. All his one hundred and sixty-nine pounds were striving mightily in the effort to score a sure and telling blow. His pals and the crowd from the neighboring camp were making the spacious hall ring with their resounding shouts.

But it all ended just as innumerable times before. After weathering a storm of blows which seemed to come at him from everywhere except behind him,

after landing a few good ones himself, a numbing right caught him on the jaw. In a moment he was back against the ropes. He half-rolled, half-staggered instinctively to one side to escape further punishment should his opponent follow up his advantage.

There was something warm running down his chin. His lip was split, of course. He steadied himself on his wobbling legs and peered out at his adversary from between hunched shoulders. Why, the guy was almost twice as old as he was. He himself was nineteen. His opponent, though just about the same height and build as he was, was a hard muscular soldier of about thirty-nine. Old enough to — bang! bang! another flurry of gloves drove Battling Bruce back still farther into a corner.

Bruce knew Bill Carpenter well. Many a time, yes, even behind the smelly leather of boxing gloves, he had seen those dark-brown eyes, slightly narrowed, gleaming at him. Bill's hair, cut in army style, was run through with streaks of gray. There were slight wrinkles all over his lean brown face, but age wasn't slowing down his gloves yet. Bill's thick lips were twisted in a little sympathetic smile (it all depended on how you looked at it). Bruce, peering through the daze, smiled back wryly. He knew he was near the end. He had seen that smile before.

But he would go down fighting. If this old soldier thought he would just cave in like a lemon, he was goofy. He would fight to the bitter end like Henry Armstrong — "Hammering Hank," they called him. If he had to lose, he would do so like Joe Louis had done — once. Joe had fought with Schmelling for round after round after a hard right had left him practically "out" on his feet. Bruce himself was almost out now. Soon he would be all out. But before that he would do some fighting.

With a swift lithe step forward, he was out of his corner, arms flailing furiously. His right thudded against



THE SOLEMN OPENING MASS OF THE MIDWESTERN CLERGY CONFERENCE at St. Rita's Church, Indianapolis, Ind., was celebrated by Rev. Arnold J. Garvy, S.J., assisted by Revs. Charles Murphy and Melchior Lochtefeld

Semi-Annual Midwestern Clergy Conference

Priests working in the Negro Missions of the Midwest meet

The Midwestern Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare held its October semi-annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., at St. Rita's Parish. Composed of priests who labor in the Negro Missions of the Midwestern states, the Conference has a membership of 114 Catholic priests.

The Conference opened with a Solemn High Mass celebrated in St. Rita's Church by Rev. Arnold J. Garvy, S.J., of Chicago, Ill.; assisted by Rev. Charles Murphy, pastor of St. Anne's Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, as Deacon, and Rev. Melchior Lochtefeld, C.P.P.S., pastor of St. Edward's Church, Cleveland, Ohio, as Subdeacon.

A public meeting was held at the Indianapolis Y.W.C.A. at which the Bishop of Indianapolis, the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, D.D., spoke. Senator Robert L. Brokenburr and a number of other notables delivered interesting talks.

The two-day conference closed with the election of officers. Rev. Bernard Strange, host to the Conference and pastor of St. Rita's, was re-elected president, while Rev. John F. Ryan, pastor of Holy Name of Mary Church, Chicago, Ill., was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, D.D., Archbishop of Chicago, is Episcopal Moderator of the Midwestern Clergy Conference.

BATTLING BRUCE MEETS HIS MATCH

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

● A Short Story

Battling Bruce grunted. He had ducked only to meet a stinging uppercut that made the left half of his face numb. Mechanically, he shuffled back out of danger, his opponent following cautiously. As he was being thus stalked, all kinds of thoughts were swarming through his head.

"Battling Bruce!" Huh! He sure hadn't been doing much battling for the last seven rounds. On the contrary, he had been taking enough punishment for two men. Yet, he knew he was good. In the Army, where he was a corporal, he was the best in his division.

At this point in his interior soliloquy, he feinted with his left, then grunted again as the right that he had tried to whip over behind it was knocked aside. Ouch! A glove, gleaming with sweat, thudded against the side of his head. He back-tracked staggeringly, narrowing his eyes to hide the dazed look he felt must be in them.

His pals, the fellows in his division, were all yelling for him to get in there and fight. Gee, they were swell guys! He had licked many of them with these same gloves. He was representing them, and had to make good. But they didn't know what he was up against. Every punch he threw seemed to be met and blocked. He was using every trick he knew to reach his opponent, but it almost seemed as if he were an open book, so accurately were his movements read.

Battling Bruce was becoming desperate. He took a quick step forward, and ran into a flurry of arms and gloves that made him think of a heavy rain. His own shoulders were pumping. All his one hundred and sixty-nine pounds were striving mightily in the effort to score a sure and telling blow. His pals and the crowd from the neighboring camp were making the spacious hall ring with their resounding shouts.

But it all ended just as innumerable times before. After weathering a storm of blows which seemed to come at him from everywhere except behind him,

after landing a few good ones himself, a numbing right caught him on the jaw. In a moment he was back against the ropes. He half-rolled, half-staggered instinctively to one side to escape further punishment should his opponent follow up his advantage.

There was something warm running down his chin. His lip was split, of course. He steadied himself on his wobbling legs and peered out at his adversary from between bunched shoulders. Why, the guy was almost twice as old as he was. He himself was nineteen. His opponent, though just about the same height and build as he was, was a hard muscular soldier of about thirty-nine. Old enough to bang! bang! another flurry of gloves drove Battling Bruce back still farther into a corner.

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But he would go down fighting. If this old soldier thought he would just cave in like a lemon, he was goofy. He would fight to the bitter end like Henry Armstrong — "Hammering Hank," they called him. If he had to lose, he would do so like Joe Louis had done — once. Joe had fought with Schmelling for round after round after a hard right had left him practically "out" on his feet. Bruce himself was almost out now. Soon he would be all out. But before that he would do some fighting.

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

old Carpenter's cheek. He sneaked it in again, and again, and again, and each time it encountered old Bill's hard head. Shifting rapidly, he drove his left to the body. It was blocked by a rigid brown arm. Nothing fazed, he whipped over his right in a long looping arc toward Bill's nose. It went on and on, meeting nothing but air resistance. Like a flash, he saw his right glove resting on the old soldier's shoulder. His left was down! Bill had him as wide open as a barn door and could score almost before he could bat an eye!

Battling Bruce saw his blackout coming. It was a cocked right starting from near a hairy chest, and speeding for his chin about two feet away. It didn't take long. Just about the flicker of an eyelash. Yet as it rose, he saw himself again, a little boy with his first boxing gloves. He was vainly trying, with arms going like a windmill, to beat down the long arm of his father, whose fist was pressed against his nose. His own Dad had taught him how to use his hands. He recalled the black eye he had given his father in a later bout. It made the old man so proud that he had recounted the incident a dozen times to the other young men at the foundry where he worked. He recalled the sovereignty he had exercised among the "gang," due to his preeminent knowledge of the gentle art of self-defense. Dad had taught him. He had boasted of that to many another soldier-son of some father after a pugilistic exhibition. Dad had taught him, and he was proud of it. His last thought as he felt leather on his chin was that he would always be proud of it. Then stars exploded all through his head, and a black curtain shut them out.

When he came to, about twenty seconds later, he was in his own corner on a stool. A crowd of soldiers stood around him, one of them wiping the blood off his face with a damp towel. Suddeny the crowd parted. Somebody was coming through. Bruce looked up into the swarthy countenance of Bill Carpenter. Bill's face, framed with grayish-black hair, was taut with a big smile, despite the cut on the left side of

his mouth. Familiarly, he laid a thick muscular hand on the younger man's shoulder.

"Son," he said, "you put up a nifty fight. If I didn't know you like a book, you'd of had me in a pickle, several times."

"You sure did polish me off nicely, Dad!" said Battling Bruce Carpenter, as he grinned lovingly at his soldier-father.

The Convert-Maker

(Continued from page 31)

Negroes of Harlem was recognized by the Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, who made the zealous priest a Papal Chamberlain, and later elevated him to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

February's Saints

(Continued from page 35)

zealous apostolic labors proved his gratitude for such a unique favor, and God was so pleased with his life that He favored him with the crown of a martyr's death. He is believed to have been crucified either in Ethiopia or Judea. Your faith is a free gift from God. Do you show your gratitude by living a good Catholic life? Ask St. Matthias to help you to do so always.



The Society of the Divine Word (S.V.D.) was founded in 1875 in Steyl, Holland, by Father Arnold Jansen, whose cause for Beatification has been introduced at Rome.

Wanted: A TAILOR

Single or married man of good character. Steady employment amid pleasant religious surroundings. For further information write or apply to Rev. Father Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss.



FROM OUR BOYS IN SERVICE



We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. Your letters will be published on this page for the benefit of the folks at home. — ED.

Dear Father: I received the ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER, and I wish to thank you because I never felt better in my life. You may remember me personally from the Lafon Boys' Home in New Orleans, La. Sister Cyrilla may have written and told you that I am now in the Service.

I was delighted to read such information as that which was printed in your October edition. Being a man in the Service and very far from home, I am very glad to read such words from the kindest friends not only in the South, but also in the North. Your work is commended both North and South.

Please, will you remember me especially in your prayers for our Armed Forces and for Peace? May God bless and protect you so you may continue your splendid career on earth, and enjoy Heaven as your reward. As ever, a true friend,

*S 2/C Edward J. LeBoeuf
S.S.S. Barr. 1801-E
Camp Robert Smalls
Great Lakes, Ill.*

* * *

Dear Father: I am sending you this little bit of news in which you may be interested. I have a position here in the Provost Marshal's Office as a fingerprint expert and am the first colored soldier to hold such a position in a southern camp as far as I know. My job is to fingerprint all civilian employees employed at this base.

I am from St. Elizabeth's Parish, Clarksdale, Miss., where I was baptized by Father Patrick Martin on December 7, 1941, the first colored Catholic to be baptized in St. Elizabeth's Church.

This letter is being written because you requested that we men in the Service write to ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER. Thanking you, and asking your good prayers at Mass, I am yours for

a better Catholic soldier,

*Pvt. James Potts
3rd Aviation Squadron
Hunter Field, Ga.*

* * *

Dear Father: After reading the article "Another Catholic Hospital for Negroes" and the editorial in the September MESSENGER, I feel that I must tell you how thankful and grateful I am for all the news you give us about Catholics at home. It is splendid work which you and other Catholics are doing, and I only wish that I could have an active part in it.

At present my unit is Somewhere in New Guinea doing a job for our country, and hoping that our doing so will bring a measure of peace, if not lasting peace, to the suffering children of the world. A fair percentage of this unit is Catholic, and we all try our best to live up to what is expected of us; by this I mean that we try to be good soldiers and good servants of Christ.

I enjoyed the poem "A Common American Boy" by Arthur C. Winters, S.V.D., and hope that we may have the pleasure of meeting again real soon in the pages of the MESSENGER.

Another thing I must mention is the action of the Northeastern Clergy Conference on Negro Welfare as reported in your magazine. Such action has long been needed, and now that they have taken the first step I hope that all Negro leaders, both Catholic and non-Catholic, will back them in their action. Special attention should be given to sections 1 and 2 on page 153, and section 3 should become effective as soon as possible. There are also several other things that we hope will some day be corrected.

I think that I have covered all I intended to say, and in closing may I wish you strength and courage to face the days ahead? Your friend and reader,

*Pvt. Herbert L. Tate
Co. C, 91st Eng. Rgt. (GS)
A.P.O. 929
San Francisco, Calif.*

BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

A Generous Contribution

When the five Sullivan brothers lost their lives last year in the Pacific war area, it was not the first time that an American family suffered such a tragedy. A Negro family named Holden suffered a similar cross before them. In fact, it happened at the very beginning of this war at Pearl Harbor. When the Japanese sank the U.S.S. *Arizona* among the gallant crew who went down with that ship were five brothers of the Holden family: Reginald, 36, Heywood, 33, Harry, 31, and Joseph and Richard, twins, 30. The father served in the Navy in the first World War and only recently, a younger member of the family, Warren, 18, enlisted as an apprentice seaman, undaunted by the sad blow of the death of his five brothers.

But the Army has not been neglected in the service this sterling Negro family is rendering our country. Three more brothers, all captains, are serving overseas in this branch of our armed forces. America can well be proud of the Holden family.

Brooklyn Gets Colored Catholic Labor School

The study of the conditions of labor and economics under the penetrating light of the papal encyclicals; the application of Catholic principles to present day social problems; and a better appreciation of the wealth and meaning of the liturgy of Holy Mother Church — such are the main topics to be treated in the recently opened Colored Catholic Labor School at St. Peter Claver's parish in Brooklyn, N. Y. Comprising the staff of lecturers are many prominent men and women.

Hoey Awards to Philip Murray and Ralph Metcalfe

"The Church and the Labor movement are the two strongest and best weapons to reduce to the lowest possible minimum acts of discrimination ... by which the Negro in America is denied the equality of treatment to which all citizens are entitled." Thus

spoke the president of the CIO, Mr. Philip Murray, the recipient of the James J. Hoey Award for 1943. The address was delivered at the Carroll Club before 250 Negro and white Catholics. Two medals are conferred each year on the Negro and white Catholic considered to have contributed most to promoting the cause of interracial justice. The Negro Catholic recipient of this year's Hoey award was Mr. Ralph Metcalfe, noted athletic champion and member of the National Catholic Community Service staff. He could not be present for the award due to the fact he is USO mobile director in California. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, Director of the Social Action Dept. of N.C.W.C., delivered the main address. He condemned the discriminatory attitude and practices of many white Catholics in their dealings with Negroes and stressed the truth that "the Catholic doctrine of interracial good will is not based upon ... kindly sentiment but rests upon the dignity of personality, the essential equality and brotherhood of all persons and the fact that they are all called to be adopted children of God."

Negro Army Doctor Honored

Lieutenant Colonel George McDonald is the second Negro medical officer of the U. S. Army to wear the silver oak leaf, the other being Lieut. Col. M. O. Bousfield stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Lt. Col. McDonald has gained a wide reputation for his singular success in controlling and preventing numerous cases of contagious diseases. He is stationed at present at Tuskegee Army air field in Alabama.

Grandson of Negro Leader in Army

Private Booker T. Washington III, grandson of the famous Negro educator, leader and founder of Tuskegee Institute, is assigned to Company E at Fort Dix, N. J. Few members of the Negro group carry with them as proud and courageous a heritage as this young soldier, Booker T. Washington.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Negro Cadets Show Proficiency

The Army Air Forces' first class of Negro navigation cadets has completed a series of flying missions with marked proficiency. After two weeks of comprehensive indoctrination the cadets entered upon an intensive eighteen weeks' navigation training schedule. They are stationed at the huge Texas navigation base at Hondo, Texas, and are known as "Squadron 10."

Negro Track Star Is Navigation Cadet

Sport fans who kept a keen eye on the track performers well remember the name of Walter A. Arrington. In 1937 he attracted the attention of the track world by jumping six feet four inches at an inter-scholastic high jump meet in Madison Square Garden. He then entered Michigan State Normal and as a freshman held seven college track records. In his sophomore year he won the IC-4 high jump cup with a leap of six feet five inches. He is now an aviation cadet in the army air forces navigation school, Hondo, Texas.

War Department Honors Negro Aviator

On August 11, 1943, Lieut. Paul G. Mitchell of Washington, D. C., was reported killed in action in the North Africa area. He was a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron. For meritorious achievement while taking part in ten sorties against the enemy this Negro pilot was awarded the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.

Soldier Donates Land to City

The city council of Charleston, S. C., had appropriated the necessary funds to build a new all-colored fire station, but a suitable spot could not be obtained. Finally a particularly well-suited site was chosen, but the owner was found to be serving in the armed forces. Moreover, he had decided to build an auditorium for the Negroes of Charleston since there was no such place in the city for the colored. He had refused as high

as \$3500 for the land offered by several parties in the past. The city then put in a good bid and then the unexpected happened. The owner, a young sergeant named Damon G. Thomas, took up the matter with his father. Both agreed that a golden opportunity for promoting interracial good will was at hand. So with the proviso that the land be used to house and maintain a Negro fire-fighting company he donated the lot to the city. The newspapers and public officials praised the generous sacrifice made by Sgt. Thomas, and the city erected a marble tablet commemorating the gift.



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With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

School Filled but War Taking Toll of Parish

Father Francis Baltes, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Jackson, Miss., writes some interesting things about his mission:

"Our school is filled with youngsters who, besides the sound education in the three R's, receive the much needed knowledge about God and Religion. There are 450 boys and girls attending our grammar school, and 125 in the high school department, more than ever before in the history of our parish.

"Our church and the Sisters' con-

vent have received badly needed repairs on the outside, and the rectory has been treated to a badly needed coat of paint.

"The war has brought about many changes among our little congregation. Forty-two young men have joined the Armed Forces in the air, on land and on sea. One, killed in action, will never return to dear Holy Ghost Parish. Two young ladies have joined the WACS. Others have left for jobs in war industry in different parts of the country. But in spite of all we are still trying to carry on."



CONFIRMATION CLASS AT ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LA.
The Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, La., confirmed these 24 colored and 15 white children at St. Thomas' Church, of which Father Peter Oswald, S.V.D., is the pastor

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Not To Be Outdone!

When the school children of St. Anselm's School, Chicago, Ill., reported a few months ago that they had sold War Stamps and had bought a jeep, the pupils of St. Elizabeth's School, twenty blocks away, didn't want to be outdone. So they got busy and by November they had bought a jeep for the Army, too. And a soldier took some of the kiddies for a ride in it. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament conduct St. Elizabeth's School.

Confirmation in St. Anselm's

The Most Rev. William O'Brien, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, recently confirmed almost 400 children and adults in St. Anselm's Church, Chicago, Ill. Father Gerard Heffels, the pastor, and his two able assistants, Fathers Rupert Weindl and Edward Misik, had worked hard to get such results.

Out Arkansas Way

Father Joseph Kempinski thinks that the turning point in the history of his St. Peter's Mission has just about come at last. The school is booming, and for the first time converts in appreciable numbers are beginning to ask for instructions in the Faith; thus this hard mission begins to give evidence of growing.

Father says that his only wish is to see his beautiful little church filled with children of God.

When you finish reading this magazine please pass it on to someone else to read. This will both conserve paper and help our work.

They Call It Sulphur Springs

(Continued from page 30)

me when the services were over.

"Just how many colored Catholics do you have?" I inquired.

"There are 40 who attend Mass regularly. Add a few sick people, the real old folks and the little babies and the total is around 70. But from what I have seen and heard in the few months I have been here I figure that there must be pretty near 150 or perhaps even 200 colored Catholics scattered throughout these two counties. A few of them attend St. Therese's Church up in Kosciusko. But so many live so far away from the church that they can hardly ever attend except on rare occasions. Then there are some who for lack of instructions or for one reason or another have just drifted away."

"But," I asked, "how does it happen that here in the very heart of Mississippi there are so many colored Catholics whose parents were Catholics for generations before them?"

Father explained to me briefly: Between 1841 and 1848 several Irish Catholic families came from Georgia and from New Orleans into the interior of Mississippi and settled in Madison and Leake Counties. Here in the backwoods these rugged Catholic pioneers did not abandon the practice of their Faith, but set about building a church where they could attend Mass said regularly by a visiting priest from many miles away.

Most of the members of Sacred Heart Church are the descendants of Negro slaves once owned by these

(Continued on page 48)



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"There are 40 who attend Mass regularly. Add a few sick people, the real old folks and the little babies and the total is around 70. But from what I have seen and heard in the few months I have been here I figure that there must be pretty near 150 or perhaps even 200 colored Catholics scattered throughout these two counties. A few of them attend St. Therese's Church up in Kosciusko. But so many live so far away from the church that they can hardly ever attend except on rare occasions. Then there are some who for lack of instructions or for one reason or another have just drifted away."

"But," I asked, "how does it happen that here in the very heart of Mississippi there are so many colored Catholics whose parents were Catholics for generations before them?"

Father explained to me briefly: Between 1841 and 1848 several Irish Catholic families came from Georgia and from New Orleans into the interior of Mississippi and settled in Madison and Leake Counties. Here in the backwoods these rugged Catholic pioneers did not abandon the practice of their Faith, but set about building a church where they could attend Mass said regularly by a visiting priest from many miles away.

Most of the members of Sacred Heart Church are the descendants of Negro slaves once owned by these

(Continued on page 48)

CHILDREN'S CORNER



My dear Boys and Girls:

Do you know what? The United States has about **TEN MILLION** soldiers, sailors and marines by now. And I'll bet that every one of you has **SOMEBODY** from your family in the Army or Navy or Marine Corps. Now while daddy or uncle or cousin or brother or even sister is in camp or out in the dangerous front line it's up to us here at home to help them all we can, by buying and selling War Stamps and Bonds, by collecting scrap iron and old newspapers, by saving waste fats, and especially by **PRAYER** and **SACRIFICE**.

Prayer and Sacrifice can do very, very much to help end the war, and Lent is a good time to start practicing these two things more than we perhaps have been doing before.

One very good way to practice Prayer and Sacrifice is to go to Holy Mass **EVERY DAY** during this Lent. You will make a small sacrifice by getting out of bed early, and the Mass itself is a **BIG** Sacrifice offered with Prayer to God.

Come on, now; let's make up our mind that we are going to get to Mass *every morning* this Lent, and offer it up to the dear God for our daddy or uncle or cousin or brother or sister in the Armed Forces that they may be protected from harm and that the war may come to an end this year so that our whole family can be together once more.

Just think of it: hundreds or even thousands of boys and girls attending Holy Mass every morning this Lent and praying for peace. We can do it! The Blessed Lord said that if we have real Faith in Him we can move mountains. Well, we certainly believe that God can stop this war. So, let's get together at Mass all during Lent and beg Him to stop it this very year. Are you with me? All who intend to go to Mass every day during Lent, and *sometimes*, perhaps *many* times, to Holy Communion, raise your hands. Fine! There are plenty of hands; but do you really **MEAN** it? You know, it will be pretty cold some mornings. That's O.K., you say? And the bed will feel better and softer and warmer than at any other time. You say that that won't make any difference to you? Well, you'll surely have a tough fight with the old devil. You answer that you won't let him get the best of you? And what about that long walk to church, and no hot breakfast, just a cold lunch? Still got your hand up? "Sure, Father," I think I hear you saying; "Jesus did more than that for **ME**; why can't I do this for Him? And besides, if other children can go to Mass every morning in Lent, so can I."

Atta boy! Atta girl! More power to you! And I'll be seeing you at Mass.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: This is the first time you have heard from me since I won the Mission-Graph Contest last March. I

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

was very glad, and would like to thank you very much.

Father Patrick Molloy told me that he has been to Bay Saint Louis and that he knows you personally. Father has now been moved to another parish. At first he was here at Blessed Martin de Porres' Mission. Father hated to go, and all of us here at the Mission really miss him, too.

My cousin, Marilyn Spears, and I read every one of your MESSENGERS and like them a lot.

When I wrote my Mission-Graph I was at St. Malachy's School in St. Louis, Mo. I graduated from the 8th grade, and am now attending St. Joseph's High School in St. Louis. St. Joseph's is the only colored Catholic high school in St. Louis. We like the school and the Sisters too. The Sisters of St. Joseph are the teachers.

Father, on your next vacation we invite you to St. Louis to visit all the colored Catholic schools. There are quite a few grade schools in St. Louis.

I liked that little poem in the MESSENGER about "Poeples and Style." That poem is just like people.

Father, I won't forget to pray for the poor, and for the success of the Colored Mission work. Sincerely,

Rose Delores Bailey, age 14
214 Alsabrook Avenue
S. Kirkwood 22, Mo.

Thanks, Rose. I am sure that the people miss Father Molloy, and I know that he misses them, too, because he has heart and soul in his work at Blessed Martin's. Perhaps I may get to St. Louis again sometime, but if I have to wait till my next vacation, I'm afraid you may have to meet me at the station with a WHEEL-CHAIR. By that time I'll probably be too old to walk.

Dear Father Howard: I was sorry to see you leave Immaculate Conception Church. In fact, all the children were sorry to see you go, and the adults, too. Everyone is still talking about how good the Mission was, and what good advice you gave them. I am trying to keep your advice, and if I keep it I know that I will be a good girl.

In my next letter I will send a dollar. I want to be a subscriber of the SAINT AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER. Sister showed us one of the December's issue, and she read it to us. It sure has a lot of nice things to read in it.

I haven't got very much to say. Father, I want you to pray for me.

From Mary Louise Wright, age 13
833 Hopkins Street
Augusta, Ga.



Certainly I will pray for you, Mary; but don't you forget to pray for me and for our work here at the Seminary. Glad you like the MESSENGER, and hope you will write again.

Dear Father Howard: I thank you for the Mission you gave us, and we were happy to have you with us. I want to become a Catholic soon. Tell all the priests to pray for me.

Sister told us that you are going to give some more Missions in other places. I say a prayer that your Missions will be a success. I miss you and hope you will come again next year. I hope to be a priest someday.

How are you today? I hope you are fine. I am praying for you every night. I hope I will get to the Seminary someday and see it. I hope you will remember me in your prayers. Yours gratefully,

William Francis Carnagie, Grade 6
165 Eighth Street
Apalachicola, Fla.

Willie, I am happy that you want to become a Catholic, and happier that you have in mind to become a priest someday. Keep on being a good boy, and when you become a Catholic be a GOOD one. Continue to pray to the dear Lord Jesus, and I will pray to Him for you also. And maybe someday not too far away I shall see you here at St. Augustine's Seminary.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PICTURE

by

Bobbie Burns, age 13
1803 O'Hea Street
Greenville, Miss.

George Washington's picture is on the wall—
It isn't a very pretty picture at all;
But it gives us an idea of courage when he
was alive,
Which was 'way back in 1775.

That picture's of a man brave and strong,
The picture of a man who wouldn't do wrong;
The picture of a man who wouldn't harm a
fly,
The picture of a man who wouldn't tell a lie.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

The Father of a country brave and true!
Aren't you glad you're an American, too?
He died in the glory in which he did live.
Praise, George Washington, to you do we give.

You made a very good effort, Bobbie; keep at it. You know, once upon a time there was another little boy named Bobbie Burns. He lived about the same time as George Washington. He used to try his hand at writing poems, and when he grew up he became the greatest poet of Scotland. Can you name at least one of his poems — one which most American school children know and sing? First guess! and then look for the answer at the bottom of this page.

* * *

During Lent do not forget to pray that the Negro Missions may continue to make much progress in spite of the war, so that more and more of the 13 million Negroes in the United States may learn to know the real meaning of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And keep me in your prayers, too.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V. D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

They Call It Sulphur Springs

(Continued from page 45)

old Irish settlers and planters. The slaves became Catholics and took the names of the families who owned them. Hence many of the colored Catholics in Leake and Madison Counties, Mississippi, today bear the good old Irish surnames of O'Leary, Luckett, Conway, Griffin, and so on. In fact, one of the altar boys is no other than Pat O'Leary himself.

This satisfied my curiosity concerning the history of Catholicity in Sulphur Springs. But what about Sulphur Springs itself? What was its history? I was enlightened on this subject by a venerably ancient inhabitant, one who had seen ninety summers and as many winters pass over his head.

About 70 years ago Sulphur Springs, Miss., was in its heyday.

It was really quite a town with a fair-sized hotel, a school, some stores and a few saloons. Several springs of water rich in sulphur content attracted many visitors, so that the population at one time reached the 500 mark. Then came the yellow fever. Many people died and many more moved away. A few stayed on till World War I broke over America, then they too moved away. Buildings rotted and fell down; some were hauled away piece by piece. Even the springs dried up. In one of these somebody had long ago inserted a pump to try to force the unwilling water from the now hardened ground.

On our way home after the closing of the mission we passed by the place where the town formerly stood. Gone now is the busy hotel. Gone too the school, the stores, the saloons. All that remains of the former town is the old rusty pump standing among the weeds. Nothing more. And still they call it Sulphur Springs.

4th WAR BOND CAMPAIGN

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Help Our Boys Over There
To Hurry Back Over Here!

★

★ V ★

BUY MORE BONDS

Answer (CHILDREN'S CORNER):

Auld Lang Syne ("Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot") by Robert Burns.

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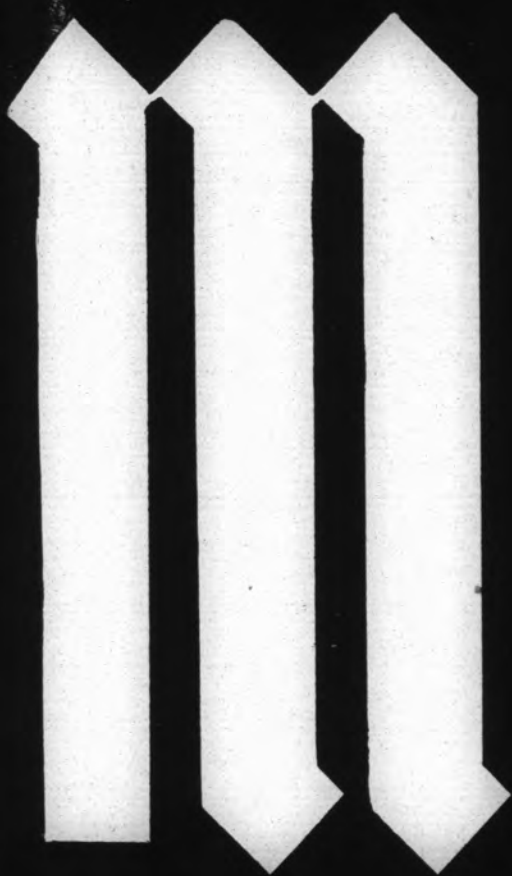
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Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

St. Augustine's



ORDINATION CEREMONIES: The Prostration

THE *Gift*

for 1944!

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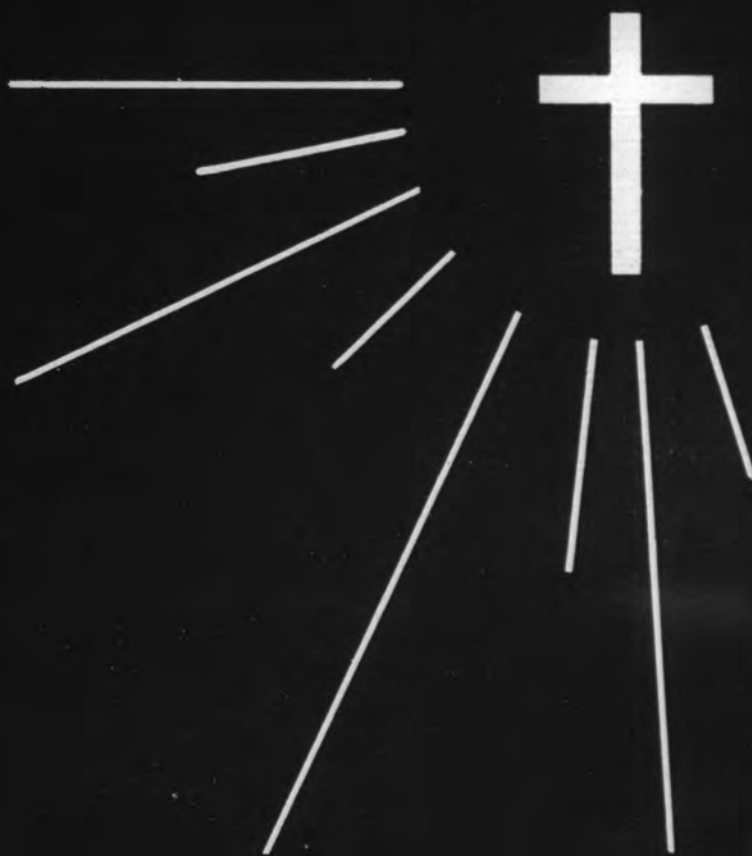
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St Augustine's



M

ESSENGER



ORDINATION CEREMONIES: The Prostration

A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

● IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Boys: If you feel that God has called you
for the great work of SAVING SOULS

THINK IT OVER!
PRAY IT OVER!
THEN WRITE TO:

REVEREND FATHER PREFECT
St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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PUBLISHED
TO MAKE THE
WORK OF THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
AMONG
NEGROES
BETTER
KNOWN

• *St. Augustine's* • **MESSENGER**

"The Magazine with a Message"

TO AID THE
Cause for which
S.V. D.
MISSIONARIES
ARE WORKING —
MORE
NEGRO PRIESTS
AND
RELIGIOUS

A Catholic magazine, published monthly, except July and August, at Techny, Ill., by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXII

MARCH, 1944

Number 3

Editorial: THE 38th COLORED PRIEST

Among the many blessings which this young year of 1944 has already brought to the Colored Missions in the United States, the Ordination to the Priesthood of the Rev. Harold R. Perry, S.V. D., at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., on January 6, is to be accorded a most prominent place.

Father Perry is the eighteenth seminarian of St. Augustine's Seminary to receive Holy Orders, and he brings to 38 the number of colored priests who have been born, educated or ordained in the United States. Of this number 25 are still living: 7 are working as missionaries in Africa, Trinidad and British Honduras, and 18 are assigned to stations in various dioceses in this country.

It is interesting to note that from 1854, when the first American colored priest, Father James A. Healy, was ordained, till 1934, when the first class of St. Augustine's Seminary was ready for Ordination, a span of eighty years, only 14 colored priests had been ordain-

ed; while from 1934 till today, a period of only ten years, almost twice that number (i.e., 24) have been ordained.

Father Harold Perry, who is a native of Lake Charles, La., also has the distinction of being the sixth colored Louisianian to be ordained to the sacred priesthood as a member of the Society of the Divine Word. The first two were Father Anthony Bourges, S.V. D., and Father Maurice Rousseve, S.V. D., natives of Lafayette, La., and New Orleans, La., respectively, who are now in charge of parishes in Louisiana. The others are Father John Dauphine, S.V. D., born in New Iberia, La., and now a missionary in Africa; Father George Chachere, S.V. D., of Opelousas, La., who died seven months after his Ordination; and Father Leander Martin, S.V. D., of Grand Coteau, La., now stationed in St. Martinville, La.

The Society of the Divine Word is proud to number these stalwart Soldiers of Christ among its members.

ANOTHER NEGRO PRIEST

- Ordained on the Feast of Epiphany
- in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi



REV. HAROLD R. PERRY, S.V.D.

The Feast of the Adoration of Christ by the Magi took on added solemnity at St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay Saint Louis, Miss., this year when Rev. Harold Perry, S.V. D., was elevated to the dignity

of the Catholic Priesthood in the seminary chapel before a large gathering of the Catholic clergy and laity, including the parents and many relatives of the newly ordained. The Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, Miss., conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Below is a scene of the most solemn moment of the Ordination ceremonies, when the ordaining Bishop and all the priests present, after laying their hands on the head of Frater Perry, formed a circle around him as he knelt in the middle of the sanctuary, and stood thus for a moment holding their right hands high over his head. It is at this moment that the Holy Ghost descends to transform the young



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

deacon into a priest of God!

The picture shown here at the right shows the newly ordained priest receiving the power to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, after his hands have been anointed with Holy Oil and wrapped in white linen.

The picture below at the left was taken at the Elevation of the Chalice during the First Mass, which Father Perry celebrated on the day following his Ordination.

The Archpriest in cope, kneeling in the foreground is Rev. Leander Martin, S.V. D.

At bottom right: His first Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. As he begins his priestly life receiv-



ing and imparting to others the blessing of Almighty God, so the newly ordained priest hopes to continue and end his life — receiving and giving to others the blessing of His Divine Master.



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The Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, and Very Rev. Joseph Eckert, S.V.D., Provincial, with the newly ordained Rev. Harold Perry, S.V.D.

More Progress for the Native Priesthood

V. REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V.D.

- Another Step towards the Fulfillment
- of the Oft-Expressed Wishes of the Holy See

The Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, was this year a source of genuine happiness and exuberant joy for everybody at St. Augustine's Seminary. Another of our seminarians, the Reverend Harold Perry, S.V.D., was ordained priest by the Most Reverend Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, Miss. Soon Father Perry will join the other 17 priests previously ordained to do missionary work, either by keeping and deepening the Faith of our good Colored People, or by reclaiming those who have drifted away from the Church because of lack of priests, or by actually preaching the Gospel to those outside the Church.

It was a day of joy for the superiors and teachers of the Seminary. They realized only too well that they had not worked in vain. To be able to present another young man to the ministry of the Church and to lay their anointed hands on the young levite together with the Bishop was enough compensation for every sacrifice in time and money made while this young man was in training since the fall of 1930.

It was a happy day for the young priest, *AFTER 14 YEARS* of arduous studies and severe self-discipline, much sweat and prayer, he saw the dream of his boyhood days come true: **TO BE A PRIEST OF GOD**, just like his own good pastor, Fa-

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

ther Charles Hannigan, C.S.Sp.

And last but not least, it was a happy day for the Colored Catholics of the United States, for they saw another of their group elevated to the Holy Priesthood, an unmistakable proof that the Church is in dead earnest about not barring any well qualified, virtuous and humble young man from the Altar because of race or color.

Indeed, every Ordination at St. Augustine's Seminary, according to the preacher of the First Holy Mass, Rev. Robert Hunter, S.V. D., of the Mission Procure, Girard, Pa., emphasizes loudly the necessity of a native priesthood, if our American Negroes are ultimately to be converted to Christ. We older missionaries were often forced to hear or read the embarrassing accusation of our enemies, and even of some of our good converts, that the Catholic Church excludes Negro youth

from Holy Orders and reserves this Holy Sacrament for the white youth. It made me deeply sad whenever I heard from excellent and exemplary colored Catholics, even children: "Father, why cannot we have our own priest to say Mass and preach to us as you do?" Undoubtedly this lack of native priests kept many outside the Church and even made some leave the Church. Today every Ordination at St. Augustine's Seminary brands such vicious slanders or scurrilous insinuations as contemptible lies. Today we have Negro Priests, and every year will see more coming forth from St. Augustine's Seminary and other religious institutions.

Due to the undreamt-of catastrophe which has so suddenly and disastrously overtaken our Foreign Missions, our Holy Father, the Hierarchy and Missionaries are aware of the importance and truth



THE ORDINATION MASS



The Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, and Very Rev. Joseph Eckert, S.V.D., Provincial, with the newly ordained Rev. Harold Perry, S.V.D.

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THE ORDINATION MASS



ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.,
where more native American Negro priests are being trained

of the Instructions, which Pope Benedict XV gave in his Encyclical of November 30, 1919, to the effect that "the missionaries must not regard their work as complete, the mission church well established and its future assured, until enough native priests are available." I remember well how these words spurred the founders and pioneers of St. Augustine's Seminary on to new efforts to translate their "dreamy" idea into reality. They petitioned

the Superior General of our Society to be permitted to make a humble beginning, though they did not know how, where or with what means. They approached the leaders of the American Hierarchy, His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, the late Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, and Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago, who gave them every encouragement and generous support; for they envisioned in this new, almost daring, venture a new

era for the Negro Missions in our country. Studying the reports of the S.V.D. Negro Missions of the last twenty years, one is deeply impressed with their phenomenal growth which in turn dates back to the founding of St. Augustine's Seminary, when determined and well organized efforts were made to have in the near future qualified Negro youths ready for mission work as priests.



Colored Seminarians preparing for the Priesthood



THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE NEGRO NATIVE CLERGY
Preparatory Students of St. Augustine's Seminary

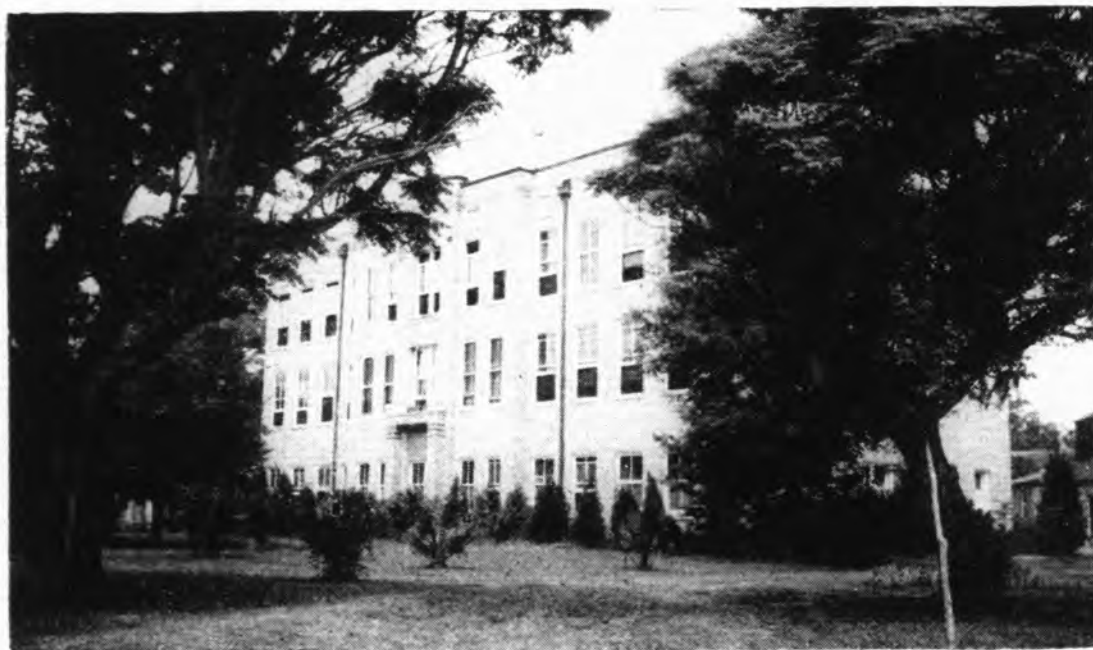
Missionaries are convinced that white priests will never convert the Negroes; that work must finally be accomplished by their own.

However, the training of native priests is only in its beginning. More boys must be recruited for our priest-officer cadet schools, the seminaries. Priests and Sisters in our Mission Schools must lend their help to cultivate budding vocations and send good boys, well-talented and with a solid Catholic background, to the seminary. To inspire and encourage our missionaries and Sisters I will quote words of the Synod of Cochin-China held in 1841: "They (the missionaries) can do nothing that is more pleasing to the Holy See, nothing more serviceable for the vicariate, nothing better adapted for the propagation of the Faith than to seek out candidates for the Priesthood." And the synod

of Yunan in 1859 stated that "... the best and most productive method of spreading the Faith and the method which corresponds most closely with the tradition inherited from the apostolic men of all Christian antiquity, is the training of a native clergy. It is an undeniable fact that the success of the missions and the depth of the faith among the pagan races increased in proportion to the number of these native priests." (Schmidlin, *Catholic Mission Theory*, page 324)

Soon our Mission Schools will close for the summer. Why not look around for promising candidates for the priesthood? Encourage them to seek admission to St. Augustine's Seminary. The mission work among the Negroes will be greatly served and advanced. Even the parish from which such voca-

(Continued on page 63)



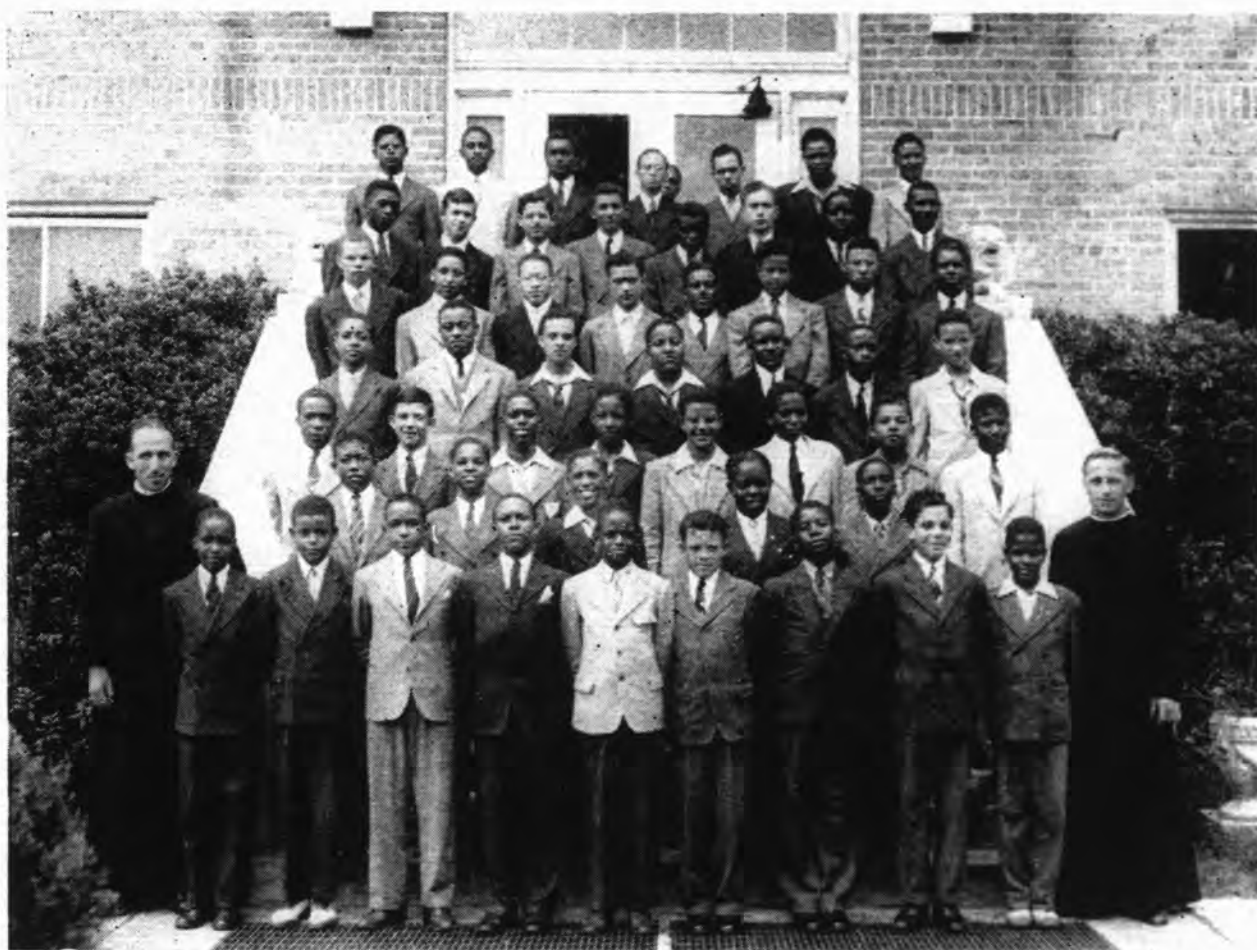
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISS.,
where more native American Negro priests are being trained

of the Instructions, which Pope Benedict XV gave in his Encyclical of November 30, 1919, to the effect that "the missionaries must not regard their work as complete, the mission church well established and its future assured, until enough native priests are available." I remember well how these words spurred the founders and pioneers of St. Augustine's Seminary on to new efforts to translate their "dreamy" idea into reality. They petitioned

the Superior General of our Society to be permitted to make a humble beginning, though they did not know how, where or with what means. They approached the leaders of the American Hierarchy, His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, the late Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, and Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago, who gave them every encouragement and generous support; for they envisioned in this new, almost daring, venture a new era for the Negro Missions in our country. Studying the reports of the S.V.D. Negro Missions of the last twenty years, one is deeply impressed with their phenomenal growth which in turn dates back to the founding of St. Augustine's Seminary, when determined and well organized efforts were made to have in the near future qualified Negro youths ready for mission work as priests.



Colored Seminarians preparing for the Priesthood



THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE NEGRO NATIVE CLERGY
Preparatory Students of St. Augustine's Seminary

Missionaries are convinced that white priests will never convert the Negroes; that work must finally be accomplished by their own.

However, the training of native priests is only in its beginning. More boys must be recruited for our priest-officer cadet schools, the seminaries. Priests and Sisters in our Mission Schools must lend their help to cultivate budding vocations and send good boys, well-talented and with a solid Catholic background, to the seminary. To inspire and encourage our missionaries and Sisters I will quote words of the Synod of Cochin-China held in 1841: "They (the missionaries) can do nothing that is more pleasing to the Holy See, nothing more serviceable for the vicariate, nothing better adapted for the propagation of the Faith than to seek out candidates for the Priesthood." And the synod

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(Continued on page 63)

OUR NEW WARRIOR OF CHRIST

CHRISTIAN BAKER, S.V. D.

- Thoughts on the Ordination of Father Perry
- by a Musing Professor

In 1931 when I came down to Mississippi, as a young priest full of apostolic, professorial, and horticultural zeal, I found Harold Perry already enrolled as a student of St. Augustine Seminary. I do not recollect that he struck me from the start as one who stood head and shoulders above all the rest of the students, either literally or figuratively. He was the smallest in his class, and hardly a head taller than the smallest in the school. "Little Perry" had been his name the first few months, and then it had definitely become "Pee-Wee." He belonged to that almost notorious group of boys from the Louisiana Swamps, the so-called "Swamp Rats," as the boys from Lake Charles and Opelousas were called. As all mothers say of their sons, so it must be said of Harold, "He was a good boy."

During the Midnight Mass of his first Christmas at the Seminary, he had enthralled the community by singing the "Et Incarnatus est" in the voice of an angel. Yet the big thing that brought him to the notice of the public in those days was not of the nature to merit such encomiums. As between great nations, so between individuals, altercations will occur. Well, in one such altercation our friend Harold let go a "Joe Louis," and another little boy wore a nice dark-blue circle around his left eye for days after.

The years passed one by one, for time "marches on." Graduation

came, novitiate passed, philosophy went by, theology opened its chest of treasures. Each year, attention was directed more and more towards Harold. On the day of his Ordination, the eyes of all were directed towards him. He was the only one who had persevered. It takes a fighter to come out on top like that — alone.

This January 6, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. The scene of the imposition of hands is so vivid in my mind. There were over forty-three priests present. As boys, many had walked through glen and valley in Ireland, and in their wildest dreams had never fancied they would impose their hands upon a candidate for the priesthood in far-off Mississippi. Some had taught him during his high-school years, as Father Schuler and Father Busch. Others had instructed him in his final years of study, as Fathers Kemper and Friedel and my humble self. Two had formerly sat with him in the classroom, Fathers Woods and Howard. Now the right hand of each was stretched out as the Bishop prayed. It was a touching scene. This was the Catholic Church, the Catholic Action of the South. The hand of each was raised to call down upon this man the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the ceremonies, His Excellency, The Most Reverend Richard Oliver Gerow of Natchez, in his simple and touching way, expressed his joy and satisfaction at

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



Father Perry (seated) with his parents, brothers and sisters, and relatives. Father Robert Hunter, S.V. D., preacher at the First Mass, is standing behind Father Perry

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The following day, Father Perry celebrated his First Mass in our neat little chapel. He was assisted during the Mass by Father Leander Martin, who had been ordained in the same chapel of St. Augustine in 1941. A little brother of Father Perry, James Perry, and his cousin, Jerome Ledoux, who is a student at

the Seminary, served the Mass. To enhance the occasion, there were eight torch-bearers. During this ceremony as well as during the ordination they "did themselves proud."

The Reverend Father Robert Hunter, S.V.D., of Girard, Pa., Mission Procurator of the Eastern Province of the Society of the Divine Word, delighted the ears and hearts of all with a masterful display of eloquence and erudition. For a while, I'm afraid, I envied him. But as the Mass went on, I said to myself that I preferred the part I had played. For four years, I had taught theology to Father Perry and had thus helped him to arrive at his goal. I rejoiced that I had helped to produce a New Warrior for Christ. May he live long, be ever a faithful priest. May he continue to fight — for Christ.

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FATHER VICTOR WRITES TO NUNU --

VICTOR BOISVERT, C.S.C.

- In Which the Former Pastor of Pearlington
- Gives His Little Mississippi Convert Sage Advice



Dear Nunu,

Well, little fellow, here I am in Austin, Texas — a long, long way from the pines and the moss-covered oaks of Pearlington. I live at our University — St. Edward's — high on a hill just south of the city which is lighted at night in a most unusual manner. Big blue floodlights bathe the city each night with man-made moonlight, and the main wide street leading from the Colorado river up the north hill to the capitol building is a gorgeous array of lights: blue, green, red, white and yellow. It is all so different from the blacked-out Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

In Austin many of the colored people have bank accounts, that is, they put their cash money into a bank and receive a checkbook. Then they write checks to pay their bills; but some of these checks, I hear, are of the rubber variety. You know, Nunu, how a rubber ball bounces back to you. Well, those checks bounce right back because there is not enough money in the bank to pay for them. Be sure to tell your Daddy never to write rubber checks.

You can not imagine how happy I was to hear the good news that both your sisters, Emelda and Roheamon, are attending Xavier High School in New Orleans. That is fine. I am confident that they will become good students and better Catholics under the guidance of those

good Sisters who have sacrificed so much that the Catholic Negroes of the deep South might have the best in Catholic education. I laughed a lot when I read how that Sister got after those "Hep Cats" and "Zoot Suiters." At their age, Nunu, it is quite natural for them to fall for the current extravagant styles. Confidentially, at that age I was quite proud of my white knickers and bright-yellow slicker back in 1923, and I did not have the good Sisters to pin my ears back as those boys do. I just had to outgrow that form of insanity.

The weather out here in Texas is rather changeable. Already I have seen one hundred and ten degrees at noon, and just a few days later I was glad that I had an overcoat to slip over my shoulders. When it rains hard, it does not simply pour; it blows right at you from every direction. They tell a story about an early settler in Texas who had two oxen pulling his covered wagon. One night the first ox froze to death, and the next afternoon the other died of sunstroke.

You know, Nunu, Texas has more rivers and less water; more cows and less milk; more churches and less religion than any other state in the Union. The weather may be changeable, but the people out here in this big, big State sure are fine.

Zeke and I are busy from morning till late at night. We have been

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

doing some carpenter work and varnishing the woodwork in the library. Tomorrow we will upholster the chairs in the University parlor, and after that we have a big paint job to do. We zip right along on a job, because Zeke has helped me so much around the church and the rectory at Pearlington that we know what each other can do and how to go about making the work easy. But as usual, Zeke does most of the work.

My Sunday work gives me exceptional pleasure and priestly happiness. On Saturdays I go to a large Army Hospital to say Mass and to give the Holy Sacraments to the Catholic soldiers, nurses, and WACS. Because they are ill, the soldiers come to the chapel in red corduroy bathrobes, red pajamas, and white canvas slippers. These boys are from homes all over the United States. The non-Catholics and the Jews also use the chapel for their services, but the Colonel Chaplain in charge is exceptionally nice to me, and I deeply appreciate his kindness.

Last Sunday morning while I was waiting on the side porch of the chapel to say the 10 o'clock Mass, many of the soldiers came out the side door after their services. A few of them had never seen a priest before, and you should have seen those poor fellows jump. You would think that I was going to eat them.

Besides taking care of our boys, I also say Mass for the Catholic Prisoners of War who live in a special part of this immense hospital. After all, we Catholics are one in the Mystical Body of Christ, and, Nunu, it was beautiful to see with what devotion and reverence those Ital-

ian boys assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Their conduct is inspiring. Little Red may be a good altar boy, but that Italian soldier played rings around him when it came to attending to every word of the Latin and every correct sounding of the sanctuary bell.

We must not think of all the German soldiers as Nazis. I discovered that many of these youngsters are from Austria, Hungary and Jugoslavia. They are Catholics and have been in the German armies only because they have been forced to become soldiers. Some of the German soldiers can not realize that they have lost Africa. They refuse to admit the fact. When they read our newspapers, they laugh and say, "English propaganda!"

That word, propaganda, reminds me of a story about the good priest in Bay Saint Louis who was trying to make one of his colored parishioners live in peace and harmony with his wife. It seems that all the blame had been heaped on the husband's head, and it was about two years ago when that word, propaganda, was being used so widely for just about anything. The poor colored man didn't understand the word, so when he tried to defend himself, this is what he said, "Well, Father, I guess what you says is right. I admits it. I admits it. My wife is the proper goose, but I just ain't the proper gander!"

Nunu, I want you and Brother to be good boys and to help your Mother and Daddy all you can. They want you two and Aklemia to have a good education, and right now it is difficult to find enough

(Continued on page 63)

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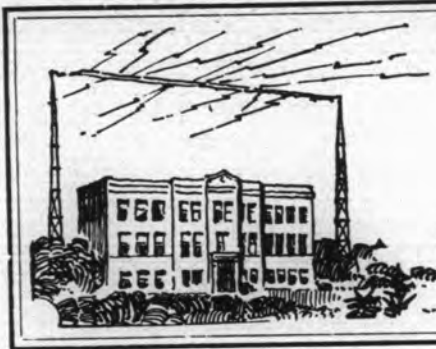
Folks, the merriment of the Christmas vacation was highly enjoyed here while it lasted, but it came to a speedy close. A jolly youngster of the minor seminary expressed a similar thought on Christmas Day when he invited his confreres in companionable and manful words: "Feast merrily and have your fun now, fellows, for the time is short and the Greek and Latin examinations are just around the corner of January."

Who worries about examinations — they come and pass like everything else. They do, eh? Sure. . . . If some diligent students speak fluent Latin and Greek aloud in their sleep, then there is some sign that the matter is filled to the point of overflowing.

Freshman-Sophomore Drama

On Wednesday of the Christmas vacation, the freshman and sophomore classes of the minor seminary presented the farce entitled, "The Case of Herr Baroomski Coneyiskey." The audience heartily applauded the dramatic talents of these young actors and looks forward to seeing these Thespian prospects before the footlights again.

Those who comprised the cast were: A. Thompson, R. Handy, J. Foster, L. Williams, R. Pitts, V. Metoyer, D. Bourgeois, J. Moultrie, Wm. Bow-



Seminary

BROST from

St. Augustine's Seminary St. Louis

the only Catholic seminary

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Big Play

The annual Christmas play was staged by the senior and junior classes of our minor seminary on Monday of the Christmas vacation. This time the mystery play of three acts, "Crooks Mentally," won the approval and interest of the audience. The audience was in an uproar of laughter and suspense throughout the grand performance and the plot was a hidden and difficult one to solve.

The cast appeared in the following order: M. Robert, W. Carlson, A. Meyers, J. Patterson, B. Dunn, H. Burris, E. Powell, H. Singleton, P. Neale, S. Buford, L. Thornton, C. Felton.

We owe a particular acknowledgment of gratitude to Father John Kist for the splendid direction and production of these dramas.

Major Seminar-ians

Thursday evening of the Christmas vacation witnessed a novel entertainment on the part of our major seminar-ians. "Duffy's Tavern," an improvised stage-set, erected in the philosophers' classroom, became the scene of much original fun.

Acting in the ca-



Handball is a favorite outdoor sport



capacity of host, Frater Edward Adams added a spark of gaiety to the occasion with timely jest and management. Then, a score of musical and dramatic performances were rendered by the Fraters.

Yes, folks, believe it or not, there is talent for Hollywood here within our midst! A further proof of this fact was discovered when Fraters Figaro and Lewis, who filled the roles of trial producers, tested the impersonating ability of Frater Dauphin. Frater Dauphin imitated the actions of twelve different characters, beginning with a hard-boiled, losing football coach, angrily gesticulating at the half, and concluded the series with the patois and characteristics of a parishioner of Opelousas, La. Frater William Adams and Frater Winters played the respective parts of "The Town's Terror" and the sheriff in a rather funny and natural style in an act taken from the backwoods and feuds of Tennessee. Frater Washington attempted to awaken the spirit of the deceased Caesar in that homemade version

of Mark Antony's famous oratorical speech. Father Kist's tricks and stunts were as cleverly performed as ever that night.

A quiz program followed the above-mentioned features, during which gifts and prizes were presented to Father Kemper, Prefect of the seminarians, Father Howard and Father Woods together with the Fraters. The con-

cluding note of the evening ushered in the spiritual, "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," sung in four-part harmony by the seminarians' polyphonic choir.

Ordination

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Father Perry was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, October 9, 1916. Having attended Sacred Heart School there, conducted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, he entered St. Augustine's Seminary in September, 1930. His graduation from college occurred in May, 1936, and in June, 1936, he entered Holy Ghost Novitiate at East Troy, Wis. He studied philosophy at St. Mary's Mission House, Techny, Ill., where he made the first solemn profession of vows, June 21, 1938. Upon his return to the South, he completed his studies at Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

Following the ordination, a banquet, at which the Bishop, priests, Sisters, relatives and friends participated, was tendered the newly ordained priest.

Friday morning, Father Perry said his first Mass and conducted solemn devotion of the Blessed Sacrament in the evening.



Indoor pastimes hold sway while March winds blow outside

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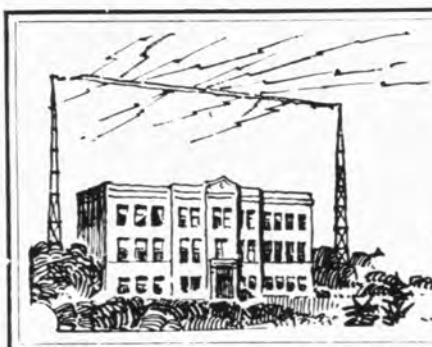
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I KNOW A MAN WHO DOES

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.



"I understand," she whispered softly

They chanced to emerge from the church together. The autumn evening immediately wrapped them in the last fading rays of the sunset. At his first glance at her brown lively face, he deemed himself exceedingly lucky, fortunate in being permitted to walk home with her. At her first words his heart leaped up; at her next words it glumly crawled back into place.

"Well, I am glad to see you," she gushed in breathless fashion, "but, good gracious, that priest must have thought I was some sort of criminal the way he treated me," she pouted.

"Yeah — what happened?" he asked softly.

The pout grew. "Why, he actually gave me the Stations to say as a penance! That was too long a penance for the sins I told him. I didn't like it at all." Here gazing archly up at him, she asked: "You sympathize with me, don't you?"

"Well, I —" he bit his lip. Here it was again. No wonder his friends called him "Preacher" Baker. He

was always straightening people out on things just like this. And now! at such a time! and with her! For the life of him, he couldn't stop — even now.

"Well, I — I know a Man Who does," he ended softly.

"Yes? Who?" she asked, smiling interestedly.

"Well," he drawled slowly and still softly, "I know a Man Who had to make the Stations. He didn't like it either. He had to make the Stations for sins, but not for His sins, 'cause He didn't have any — but for our sins."

There was a small "Oh" from his companion, and her face grew sober.

"Furthermore," he pursued with reluctant relentlessness, "He was weighed down all the way. He was sore all over, and His Feet must have left bloody footprints." Here he swallowed. "It — it took Him pretty long to make the whole fourteen Stations." His voice grew still softer. "In fact, on the twelfth, He

spent more than three whole hours."

By this time the evening was darker. They had reached her gate. There was a worried frown on his dark manly brow. Golly! but he hated to turn to her for the parting word. Yet when he did, his heart leaped up again as it had when they met at the church door. There was a small smile on her face. But in her eyes there was shining something that he remembered for a long time.

"Thank you, Fred," she whispered softly. "I understand. Good night."



More Progress for the Native Priesthood

(Continued from page 55)

tions to the religious life stem, will also become better established and more fruitful in good works.

When Father Perry was celebrating his First Holy Mass in our humble seminary chapel, I said to myself: "How much would our Negro Missions benefit if we only had more such native priests to offer up the Holy Sacrifice for their own people and administer to them Holy Communion as Father Perry did to his own pious parents and relatives," who had come over from Lake Charles, Louisiana, to be the first to receive the priestly blessing and assist at the First Holy Mass of their own son and kin.

May God speed the day when many native priests will be ordained in this country every year for "The harvest indeed is abundant, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest."
(*Matth. 9, 38*)

Father Victor Writes to Nunu

(Continued from page 59)

money to keep both Roheamon and Emelda at Xavier Prep. You know your good Mother has to do extra work every week over at grandmother's store; so you should gladly help around the house.

Be sure to pray for me every day, especially during Sunday Mass.

Love to all,

FATHER VICTOR, C.S.C.



The missionary Fathers and Sisters have taught me to smile in spite of a natural handicap — they told me about the love of God for me. Won't you give these good missionaries in the Negro Missions your continued support?

I KNOW A MAN WHO DOES

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V. D.



"I understand," she whispered softly

They chanced to emerge from the church together. The autumn evening immediately wrapped them in the last fading rays of the sunset. At his first glance at her brown lively face, he deemed himself exceedingly lucky, fortunate in being permitted to walk home with her. At her first words his heart leaped up; at her next words it glumly crawled back into place.

"Well, I am glad to see you," she gushed in breathless fashion, "but, good gracious, that priest must have thought I was some sort of criminal the way he treated me," she pouted.

"Yeah — what happened?" he asked softly.

The pout grew. "Why, he actually gave me the Stations to say as a penance! That was too long a penance for the sins I told him. I didn't like it at all." Here gazing archly up at him, she asked: "You sympathize with me, don't you?"

"Well, I —" he bit his lip. Here it was again. No wonder his friends called him "Preacher" Baker. He

was always straightening people out on things just like this. And now! at such a time! and with her! For the life of him, he couldn't stop — even now.

"Well, I — I know a Man Who does," he ended softly.

"Yes? Who?" she asked, smiling interestedly.

"Well," he drawled slowly and still softly, "I know a Man Who had to make the Stations. He didn't like it either. He had to make the Stations for sins, but not for His sins, 'cause He didn't have any — but for our sins."

There was a small "Oh" from his companion, and her face grew sober.

"Furthermore," he pursued with reluctant relentlessness, "He was weighed down all the way. He was sore all over, and His Feet must have left bloody footprints." Here he swallowed. "It — it took Him pretty long to make the whole fourteen Stations." His voice grew still softer. "In fact, on the twelfth, He

spent more than three whole hours."

By this time the evening was darker. They had reached her gate. There was a worried frown on his dark manly brow. Golly! but he hated to turn to her for the parting word. Yet when he did, his heart leaped up again as it had when they met at the church door. There was a small smile on her face. But in her eyes there was shining something that he remembered for a long time.

"Thank you, Fred," she whispered softly. "I understand. Good night."



More Progress for the Native Priesthood

(Continued from page 55)

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FROM OUR BOYS IN SERVICE



We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. Your letters will be published on this page for the benefit of the folks at home.

EDITOR

Dear Father: — I know you will be quite surprised to hear from me from over here. I receive the MESSENGER spasmodically, as it still goes all the way out to Colorado, then Georgia, then to the Post Master in New York, and finally overseas. But that is my fault for not writing and informing you.

I am at present in North Africa, and have been here for months. It isn't too bad; have seen quite a bit of the country. In some parts it is like stepping into the time of our Lord. Several scenes could have been taken from the Biblical life of that period; in contrast to the modern part of the large cities it is rather startling.

I am sending a little donation for the fine work at the Seminary. Write to me sometime, and remember me in your prayers. I have been blessed so far in this conflict, and have much to be thankful for to God. I am feeling quite well and getting along O.K.

Will close for now with greetings for you and the members of your Seminary. Sincerely,

*Cpl. Percy B. Dorsey
Med. Det. 90th CA (AA)
Hq. 1st Bn. APO 700
C/o P.M., New York City*

* * *

Dear Father: — Enclosed is a Money Order for a subscription to St. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER. Thanks for sending it to me overseas, I am very much interested in it.

May God bless you and all the good people in the Seminary. I remain, Yours truly,

*Pfc. Alcide Cadot
Co. B. 909 ABS Bn.
APO 528
C/o P.M., New York City*

Dear Father: — I returned from my furlough and found the magazines that you sent me here on my desk. I can never tell you how much I appreciate them. They are swell. A fellow is thrown in sometimes with a gang whose religion is pretty lax. That is why I asked for some Catholic magazines to read. Thanks to you they are here.

As far as the Army goes, I have not had it hard. I am in the Air Corps and working in the Quartermaster as head clerk. But considering everything else, if anybody thinks that Mississippi is bad for the colored, then he'd better stay out of Texas. It is a good thing that I have a little religious training or else I might be in jail all the time.

Whenever you can, I would be very glad if you send me any book or magazine that you think I should read. Nice letters go good with a magazine, too, so when you have the chance please write. Respectfully yours,

*Pfc. Melvyn Richardson
330th Avn. Sqdn. (Sep)
A.A.F. Navigation School
San Marcos, Texas*

* * *

Dear Father: — Enclosed in this letter you will find \$1.25 for a subscription to the St. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER. If this amount is not enough, kindly inform me of the fact.

I used to read the MESSENGER each month while I was a student in one of the Universities of Louisiana, and I enjoyed it immensely. I can truthfully say that each month saw me looking forward to the next edition of your magazine.

You know, Father, I had plans for the future, but this war has changed all that. Kindly keep me in your prayers. Sincerely yours,

*Pvt. John Fleming
Co. C, 4th Regiment
Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo.*

BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

AFL Seeks to End Jim Crow in Labor

Promising to use positive measures to secure full recognition of and status for the Negro worker, William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, requested the National Urban League to submit their ideas as to how this plan can be actually carried out. The Urban League has always encouraged Negroes to join reputable labor organizations, but, at the same time has always maintained the Negro should not be obliged to accept an inferior status in any organized labor movement. This request of President Green indicates some degree of cooperation and support which, if mutually exchanged, will serve both for the beneficial welfare of the Negro worker and contented membership in the AFL.

Noted Negro Scholar Honored

To Dr. W. Burghardt DuBois goes the honor of being the first Negro to be nominated as a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. This institute honors notable achievement in art, music and literature and limits membership to 250. It was modeled after the National Institute of France and has been chartered by an act of Congress. It has been forty-five years in existence. Other members in the field of literature chosen with DuBois were, Upton Sinclair, Carl Van Doren and Roy Harris. Dr. DuBois is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and founded the Pan-American Congress. In 1924 he served as special envoy and minister to Liberia. His main activities have been in the field of literature. He has written such books as "Black Reconstruction" and "Dusk to Dawn"; has been editor of *Crisis* magazine, also of "Studies of Negro Problems," and written many articles for various publications. At present, he occupies the chairmanship of the department of sociology at Atlanta University.

CIO Plans to Organize Southern Negro Workers

Realizing the important and necessary part being played by Negro workers, both men and women, the CIO's political action committee completed plans in New York to organize Southern Negro workers.

Negro Farmers Lauded by Secretary Wickard

Addressing a south-wide Negro farm leaders' conference at Tuskegee, Alabama, Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, said that the trained Negro leadership has been rendering valuable service to the present war-time food production program. At present the Negro is tilling some thirty million acres of farm land. The founder of Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington, began the Negro leaders' conference whose main purpose was to spread the doctrine of self-help and to promote better living conditions for the Negro farmer. Many governmental agencies have been created since that time and have been truly successful in realizing many of the same practical objectives of this conference.

Risks Death, Awarded Silver Star

Private W. Marsh of Pittsburgh, Pa., was presented the Silver Star by Major General John Lucas somewhere in Italy. He became the first Negro to receive this reward in that theater of war. Driving his truck through water and under terrific fire, Marsh succeeded in reaching twelve wounded paratroopers. Officers at the front lines said the conditions of the road made it impossible to try to get that truck and men back to headquarters. But Marsh believed he could do so and he succeeded. It meant digging his truck out of muck and mire many times, it meant being subjected to heavy mortar and artillery fire for half an hour, but it meant the safety of twelve wounded soldiers. A truly heroic act. Hats off to a grand soldier, Private Marsh!

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Army Selects 17 Negroes for Parachute Unit

On January 14, the War Department announced the names of seventeen men who have been accepted as the cadre for the 555th Parachute Infantry, the first Negro Parachute Unit in the Army. The men were chosen from the 92nd Infantry Division at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and represent eleven States.

FPHA Announces Negro Project

On September 3 Mr. O. C. Winston, the Baltimore director of the Federal Public Housing Authority, announced that a housing project to house 1200 to 1400 family units for Negro war workers in the Baltimore area would get underway at once. FPHA studied the entire problem for months, and Mr. Winston stated he hopes the construction of these badly needed houses can be started immediately. The project will occupy a tract of 200 acres and will include the necessary schools, shopping centers, playgrounds and other community facilities.

Interracial Rally

On September 8 in Elizabeth, N.J., stars of both stage and screen performed before an enthusiastic Negro-white unity rally. It was a patriotic spectacle to see Negro and white mothers of soldiers and sailors joining hands in an effort to end race prejudice. The audience applauded Mayor Vincent Murphy of Newark who said that race prejudice has "no part in the American system of government."

Southern War Plant Names Negro Labor Counselor

The huge Bell Bomber plant of Atlanta, Ga., has named Mr. J. W. Smith as labor counselor, the first Negro to be named to that position there. Mr. Smith was vocational advisor at the Booker T. Washington high school for the past seven years and is widely known in sports circles in the South. The plant has plans which call for the use of 26,000 workers, and 9,000 of these are expected to be Negro workers.

Three Negro Heroes in New Guinea Plane Wreck

About four o'clock in the morning of September 29 three young Negro soldiers were returning to their supply base after furnishing supplies to the trucks located some distance away. Suddenly they heard cries for help in the nearby vicinity. A few hundred yards ahead they saw a B-24 bomber burning furiously. They reached the wreck and pulled out two men; as they attempted to save the remaining members of the crew a thunderous explosion knocked them unconscious. All three were not seriously injured. The three young Negro soldiers were highly praised by their company commander. They are members of the aviation Q. M. Truck company and their names are Sgt. Lewis Grindle of Phoenix, Ariz.; Cpl. James Temple of Baltimore, Md., and Pvt. David Williams of Ledowici, Georgia.

Negro Pilots to Fly Bomber Planes

The Negro flying officers who earned their wings flying single-engine pursuit planes are now being trained to operate the B-25 medium bombers. In addition to learning the intricacies of flying the B-25, they must possess a technical and mechanical knowledge of the operations of the bomber, a requisite demanded by the Army Air Force of all medium bomber pilots. These Negro officers represent varied backgrounds, ranging from nationally known athletes to scholars with degrees from high-ranking universities. Nearly all the Negro flying officers are graduates of the Tuskegee Army Flying School in Alabama.

New York Installs Negro Jurist

On December 30 Judge Francis Rivers was sworn in as justice of the City Court of New York. It marked the first time in the history of the city that a Negro has attained this position. Judge Rivers was elected to this position in November. Prominent political and civic leaders attended the installation ceremonies and extended their congratulations to Justice Rivers.



“Quote and Unquote”

- What Others Are Saying Of
- And About the Negro

Justice and Charity

“Justice requires every man to look upon all other men as essentially his equals, and as endowed with equal natural rights; charity requires him to regard all other men as his brothers in Christ and as called to become adopted sons of God. If this teaching on justice and charity were generally accepted and fully applied in the everyday life of America, we should have no Negro Question nor any valid Negro grievances.”

*Rt. Rev. Monsignor John A. Ryan
Director, Department of Social Action
National Catholic Welfare Conference*

The Negro's Part in the War

“I don't know how you feel about it, but the question ‘What is the Negro's part in the War?’ annoys me no end. The task of the Negro in this war is exactly the same as that of every other American — no more and no less. And the Negroes of America have proven that this is their attitude by their willingness to join in all forms of war activity.”

*Ruth Taylor, columnist
New York City*

Catholic Interracial Program

“The Catholic interracial program seeks the eradication of prejudice and the establishment of social justice for the whole social group regardless of race. Methods used consist of prayer, example, and direct activity. While Negroes form a tenth of the population in the United States, only half of them belong to any Church, despite their love for religion, and only a small fraction are Catholics. Nationally and locally, they deserve the best efforts of Catho-

lics. This means sincere understanding and adequate assistance, spiritual and material.”

*Millard F. Everett
in THE REGISTER (Denver, Col.)*

“As Long as You Did It Not for the Least of My Brethren ...”

“Christ has laid down the principle that whatever we do to any human being we do to Him. He will hold us responsible, then, on Judgment Day for our management of race relations. Our treatment of the Negro is our treatment of Jesus Christ. How shall we Americans face that judgment? Cold, hard statistics prove the following facts: We have denied equal economic opportunity to our colored fellow citizens. We have often excluded them from our schools—even Catholic schools. We have made a mockery of the sound American principle of equal justice before the law. We have denied civil and political rights to Negroes on a large scale. We have made it difficult for them to share the benefits of medical service on the same scale as whites. We have—this is most humiliating to say; but we have even dragged our nasty prejudices into the presence of Christ in the Tabernacle. Think of it! We Catholics have dared to prate of charity and then insult our fellow Catholics by divers discriminations in the very presence of the Incarnate God!”

*Rev. Paul Hanly Furfey, Ph. D.
Head of the Department of Sociology
Catholic University of America*

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER
is only \$1.00 a year
SUBSCRIBE NOW!



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

A New School

School was opened for the first time in September at Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd Mission, Trenton, N. J. Classes are held in three rooms located in the same building as the church. Father Joseph Ford, S.V. D., the pastor, has procured three Franciscan Sisters of Borden-town, N. J., to teach in the school. Ninety grammar school pupils have been enrolled.



99-YEAR-OLD CONVERT

Fathers Clarence Weber and Arthur Haines with Mr. Giles G. Tuggles, who was baptized a Catholic 13 years ago in St. Elizabeth's Church, Chicago, Ill. Mr. Tuggles was born in Holly Springs, Miss., in 1845

Father Leedie Gives Another ...

While others were taking a little well-deserved rest during the Christmas holidays, the up-and-coming Father Alexander Leedie, S.V. D., assistant pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, La., was busily engaged conducting a week's mission at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Breau Bridge, La. Father Martin McNicholas, S.S.J., the pastor, was well-pleased with the results.

Legion of Mary

A praesidium of the Legion of Mary has been established at St. Peter's Mission, Pine Bluff, Ark. It is under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It has been so successful that a junior praesidium has been started for the children of the parish. Both are under the moderatorship of Father Francis Kowalski, the latest S.V. D. imposition on the fair State of Arkansas.

JUVENILE BOOKS?

Father Maurice Rousseve, S.V. D., is appealing for donations of juvenile books for his school library. We would appreciate it if any of our Readers could help him. Father's address is

Notre Dame Church
Box 230
St. Martinville, La.

MARCH'S SAINTS

March 10 — Forty Martyrs

Around the year 320 in the Armenian city of Sebaste forty soldiers suffered martyrdom for their confession of the true faith. Upon refusing to sacrifice to false gods, they were cast into damp dungeons, beaten with stones and finally exposed on a frozen pond in mid-winter. One of their number began to lose courage as the pain of exposure to the freezing air became more intense, and seeing the warm bath which the executioners had placed near the pond to tempt them, he plunged into it. One guard still awake suddenly saw angels descending with forty crowns but only thirty-nine soldiers to receive them. He stripped off his garments and loudly proclaimed himself a Christian and soon he, too, received a crown similar to that given the other thirty-nine. We, too, must be strong and not weaken when the tempter suggests bodily comforts at the expense of our spiritual health. Pray to these martyrs today for a really persevering faith.

March 12 — St. Gregory

Rome was the birthplace of today's saint. He was born of a noble Roman family in the sixth century and entered the field of law as a life's profession. At the death of his father he abandoned the prospects of a brilliant career and became a monk. Ten years later he was elected Abbot of the Benedictine monastery in Rome and became famous for his works explaining and defending Catholic doctrines. He was chosen by God to succeed Pelagius II as supreme pontiff and thereupon he entered into



"He hath loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood."
(Apoc. 1:5)

seriously preparing himself for the priesthood. He became a priest in the Redemptorist Congregation at Rome, and next to the founder, St. Alphonsus, was perhaps the most influential promoter of that Congregation. Vienna in Austria, Warsaw in Poland and much of Germany were the scenes of his apostolic labors. He was a very successful preacher, confessor and organizer of Catholic life and had an especial devotion to the Blessed Mother. Ask him to obtain for you a childlike love for Mary.

March 25 — Annunciation

The humble handmaid of Nazareth is the woman chosen by God to be Mother of the Messiah. When Mary understood from the Angel Gabriel that God willed she was to receive this stupendous favor, she humbly replied: "... be it done to me according to thy word." At that moment of her consent, the mystery of the Incarnation took place, Jesus

fourteen years of a pontificate of unbelievable energy and accomplishments. He extinguished heresies in Spain and Africa, secured liberty for the Church in France and sent the first missionaries to England. Many of the set forms of the official chant of the Church music were given by him, and to this day it is often referred to as Gregorian chant because of his influence. Pray for the intentions of our Holy Father, Pius XII.

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About the time when our forefathers were fighting the war for independence (1775) this saint was

(Continued on page 72)



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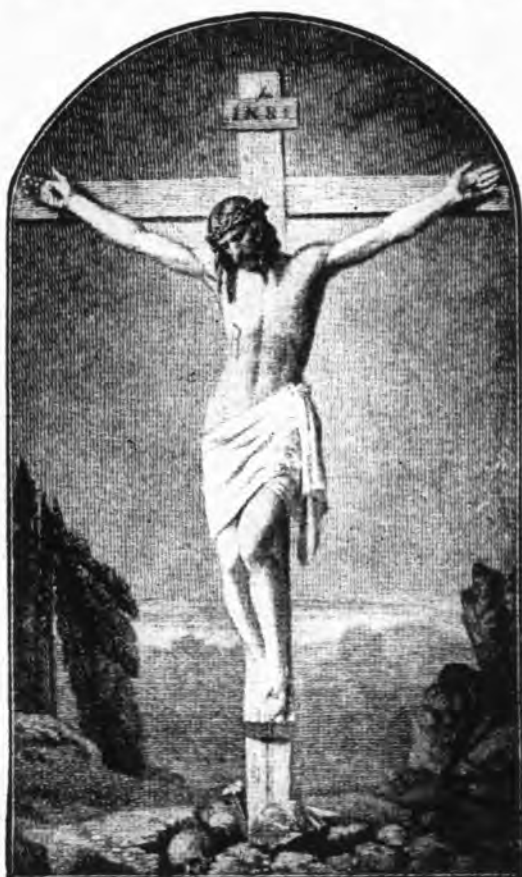
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(Continued on page 72)

CHILDREN'S CORNER



My dear Boys and Girls:

March is the special month of St. Joseph. Therefore, I think it would be very nice if every boy whose name is Joseph and every girl whose name is Josepha or Josephine would say a little prayer to dear St. Joseph each day during March, beginning with today. It need not be a long, long prayer. Just something short, even if you say only: "St. Joseph, pray for me!"

Some of the bigger boys and girls might pray the Litany of St. Joseph during this month. You can find it in most prayerbooks.

Such devotion to good St. Joseph will surely be pleasing to him, and he, in his turn, will not fail to pray to God for YOU. And since God thought so much of St. Joseph as to make him the head of the Holy Family and to give Jesus and Mary into his care for many years on earth, certainly God will now listen to his prayers when he prays for all of you in Heaven. So, take my advice and start making friends with St. Joseph right NOW!

★

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: — This is my first writing to you. I really enjoy reading the **MESSENGER**, especially the **CHILDREN'S CORNER**. My name is Marilyn Bush. I was 8 years old on the 23 of December, and I attend St. Paul's School. I am in the 4th grade. I made my First Communion in Port Arthur, Texas, and I was 6 years old. I have a little sister named Judith Bush, she

is 5 years old. Please pray that she can make her First Communion. I am, respectfully yours,

Marilyn Bush, age 8
401 Oak Avenue
Lafayette, La.

Glad to hear from you, Marilyn. Certainly, I will pray for your little sister, Judith; but five years of age is rather young for First Communion. Suppose we wait until Judith is six or seven; I think that would be better. But please don't wait that long before you write again.

Dear Father Howard: — I want to write and let you know that a few days before Christmas 4 more pupils of our school (St. Francis') were baptized as Catholics. Their names are: Melverta Robinson, Alfred Franklin, Ciserro Battie and Richard Johnson.

One of the new teachers, Sister Engel-munda, had to return to the North on account of sickness. The Sister who came in her place is Sister Alberta. She teaches the 7th and 8th grades.

I don't forget to pray for the children. Neither do I forget to pray for you. Yours in Christ,

Rose Jane Hardy, Grade 9
623 Anson Street
Yazoo City, Miss.

I rejoice with you that four more souls are now in the True Church of Christ. May the Dear Lord grant them the grace ever to remain faithful. Thanks for your continued prayers.

Dear Father Howard: — I received my copy of the paper. I was very glad to read it. I enjoyed it very much. And I am sure I will enjoy my next copy. I enjoy reading about baseball. We had a baseball game at

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

school. Our room, the 6th and 7th grades, played against the 8th and 9th. The score for the 6th and 7th grades was 15, and the score for the 8th and 9th grades was 16. They won us 1 point. From yours truly,

Henry Ollee, Jr., age 10
901 W. Pershing Street
New Iberia, La.

That was a close game, Henry; better luck for your team next time. Write and let me know the score when you play again.

Dear Father Howard: — We never wrote you about the Mission you gave here, but it still remains in our heart. We always remember you in our prayers, and may God bless you and your good work, and bring peace to the world this year.

I must close now because it is getting late and I have to get up early in the morning because this is my week to serve Mass. Love from all the family. Your little friend,

Allen C. Williams, Jr.
1914 Anna Street
Shreveport, La.

Very glad to know that you are still trying to be a good, faithful and regular Mass server. Keep it up, and even when you get too big to be an altar boy, you will still get much happiness and great blessings from assisting at daily Mass.

★

And now here is a story about a brave and good girl.

Saint Prisca

Once, a long, long time ago, there lived in the City of Rome a little girl named Prisca. Her parents were noble



ICE-SKATING



and respectable Romans. Prisca, who was only thirteen years old was a very good girl and served God faithfully.

One day the Roman soldiers found out that Prisca was a Catholic. Now the pagan Roman soldiers did not believe in the One True God and in Christ the Savior. Therefore they tried to get rid of all Catholics, who not only believed in God but also served Him. So when the soldiers learned that little Prisca was a Catholic, they hurried to her house, took her away from her father and mother and carried her to a pagan temple where they tried to make her worship idols and offer sacrifice to false gods. Prisca would not do what they told her because she knew it was wrong. Then the wicked soldiers became angry and beat poor Prisca and put her in jail.

After a while they took Prisca out of jail to see if she had changed her mind about being a Christian, but the brave girl was still faithful to God. Then the soldiers beat her with whips and even poured hot grease all over her, after which they threw her back in jail. Although her body was sorely bruised and full of painful burns, Prisca continued to pray.

After three days, when the soldiers saw that they couldn't make Prisca give up her Catholic Faith, they took her to the amphitheater, which had a high wall all around it, and there they turned a fierce lion loose upon her. But God was watching over His innocent child. When the lion saw Prisca, instead of tearing her to pieces as everybody expected, he went to her tamely and lay down at her feet.

This only made the pagans angrier than ever. Seizing the girl roughly, they locked her up for three days without any food. After this they tied her

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

to a big wooden rack and stretched her body until her bones were out of joint. Then they tore her tender flesh with cruel sharp iron hooks. When they thought she was almost dead they tied her to a post and built a big fire around her to burn her up. But in all these sufferings Prisca did not lose her faith in the good God. Though she was very tired and hungry and bleeding and sore, she kept on praying, and God was pleased with her prayers and He did not let the flames of fire hurt Prisca at all.

When the fire had burned itself out and the wicked soldiers saw that Prisca was still alive they were furious. But God decided that His faithful child had suffered enough on this earth, and so, when a soldier took out his sword and cut off Prisca's head, God took her pure soul into Heaven to be happy with Him forever.

The Catholic Church calls this brave girl St. Prisca, Virgin and Martyr. And every year on her feast day (January 18) your pastor reads the story of her life and death when he reads the Breviary, which is the official prayerbook of the priest. Ask him please to show it to you. It is written in Latin, but at least the name "Prisca" is the same in Latin as in English.

Do you not think that Prisca was a brave and good girl? You can be like her, at least in small things. When somebody tries to get you to turn away from God by sin, you can and must be brave enough to say "No!"

★

I hope all of you are keeping your good resolutions well during Lent. Only a little while longer and Easter will be here. In your Lenten prayers and sacrifices please do not forget the intentions of the Colored Missions. And I would appreciate a little remembrance, too.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V.D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

The War is not yet won!
Do your part
BUY MORE BONDS TODAY!

REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12, 46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis L. Gassler; died in Baton Rouge, La., January, 1944.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Augustine Bruening; died in New Orleans, La., January, 1944.

Mrs. Bessie Mae Bess; died in Norfolk, Va., December, 1943.

Mr. Joseph Lacey; died in Norfolk, Va., December, 1943.

Mrs. Wesley P. Griffin; died in Chicago, Ill., January, 1944.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

March's Saints

(Continued from page 69)

Christ, the Son of God, was conceived in her chaste and virginal womb. Nine months later she was to give Him birth on the day we celebrate as Christmas. The Angelus said three times daily commemorates this event when God took flesh of Mary. Say the Angelus very devoutly today.

▼

SUNSHINE

MAURICE ROUSSEVE, S.V.D.

'Tis I who know what Sunshine is!
A precious loan from Heaven,
It sets this weary world aglow
And colors all my flowers.
May every flower blest bear fruit;
The world be better for thy warmth;
May men grow strong to carry on
Because their eyes have seen thy light,
And God Himself be pleased He lent
His Sunshine to the world.

▼

Learn from Latin America

"We might humble ourselves and take a page from our Latin American neighbors who can look straight through a Negro's color and just see a man. They ignored the race issue and for them it ceased to exist."

Rev. James A. Hyland, C.S.Sp.
Missionary and Author

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Our Library is always in need of more good books.

And just now books on the Negro are especially welcome since we are trying to bring this particular section of our Library up to date and make it more complete.

If you can help us, kindly send your books or contributions to

REV. FATHER RECTOR

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Your Country Needs Your Help BUY MORE WAR BONDS TODAY!

If you want to put every bit of your surplus money into U. S. Bonds and yet would like to aid our Colored Mission work also, you can do both by purchasing Series F and G Bonds which can be made out in the name of our Seminary or of any one of our Missions.

STUDENT BURSSES

A Burse, or Scholarship, of \$5,000 will take care of the complete education and training of one of our students for the priesthood. Won't you help us complete one of the following incomplete Burses?

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St. Matthias	839.50
St. Jude	574.00
St. Elizabeth	500.00
Holy Ghost	185.87
St. Madeleine Sophie Barat	100.75

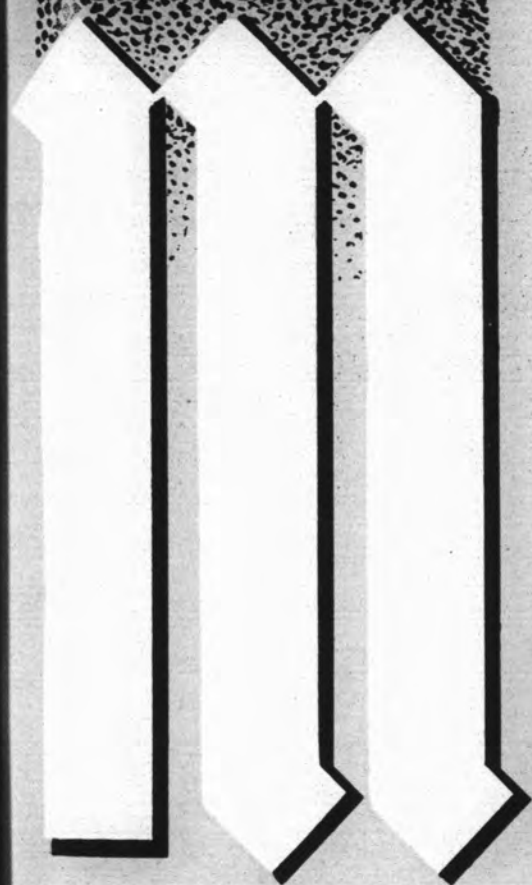
Any amount large or small will be appreciated. Send donations to

REV. FATHER RECTOR

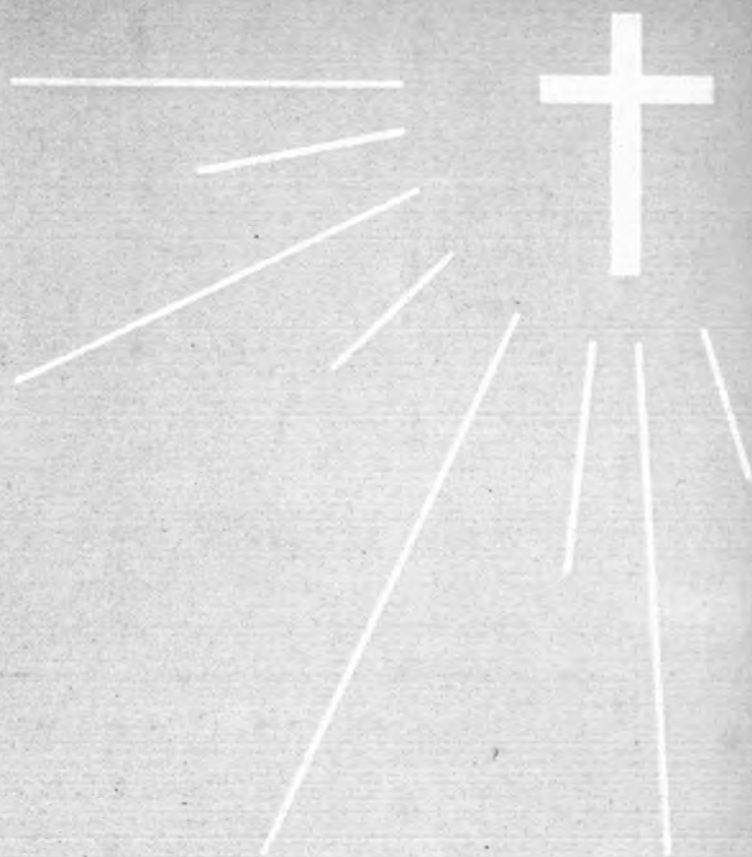
St. Augustine's Seminary

Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

St Augustine's



ESSENGER



ST.
AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

●
PUBLICATION OFFICE
TECHNY, ILLINOIS

●
Vol. XXII, No. 4
APRIL, 1944

Postmaster: See inside cover



FIRST COMMUNICANTS

**This is the
Simple Interior
of Our Chapel**



St. Augustine's Seminary Chapel

Because our former small chapel was overcrowded we were forced to build this larger chapel in 1936. The building alone — though friends helped generously — brought us pretty close to the bottom of the proverbial barrel. Consequently, to cut down the bills, we had to use in the new chapel the old altars and statues and as many of the furnishings from the old chapel as possible. That was 8 years ago.

Now, feeling that these old and varied furnishings have served their purpose, we want to paint over and decorate the bare interior of our chapel, to procure altars and statues that match — in a word, we want to make the Seminary chapel a beautiful HOUSE OF GOD. Our first step will be to procure a fitting High Altar — marble, if possible. Then side altars, statues, stations, etc., will follow in order.

Won't you help us in this laudable task? Any amount you may give, no matter how small, will be appreciated; and may God bless you for your generosity!

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.**

Dear Fathers:

Enclosed is my offering of _____ . I want to help you to
procure { ☐ the new High Altar
 ☐ the furnishings and decorations } for the Seminary chapel.
 ☐ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____

State _____

St. Augustine's

ESSENGER

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SEMINARY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

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FIRST COMMUNICANTS

A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

● IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Boys: If you feel that God has called you
for the great work of SAVING SOULS
THINK IT OVER!
PRAY IT OVER!
THEN WRITE TO:

REVEREND FATHER PREFECT

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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For further information write to:

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Mission Mass League

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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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Society of the Divine Word

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Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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CATHOLIC
CHURCH
AMONG
NEGROES
BETTER
KNOWN

● *St. Augustine's* ● **MESSENGER**

"The Magazine with a Message"

TO AID THE
Cause for which
S.V.D.
MISSIONARIES
ARE WORKING —
MORE
NEGRO PRIESTS
AND
RELIGIOUS

A Catholic magazine, published monthly, except July and August, at Techny, Ill., by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

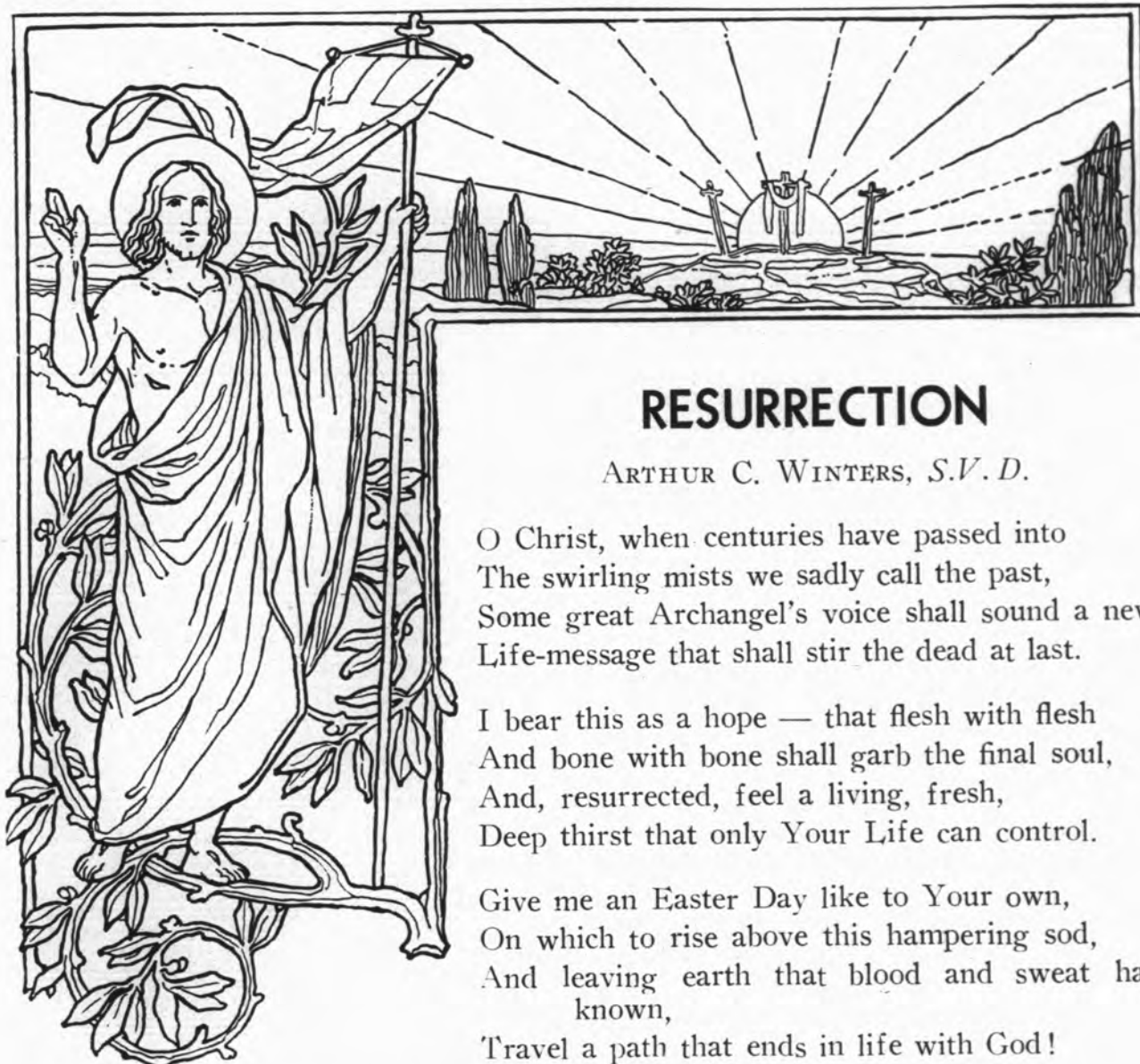
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ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXII

APRIL, 1944

Number 4



RESURRECTION

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V.D.

O Christ, when centuries have passed into
The swirling mists we sadly call the past,
Some great Archangel's voice shall sound a new
Life-message that shall stir the dead at last.

I bear this as a hope — that flesh with flesh
And bone with bone shall garb the final soul,
And, resurrected, feel a living, fresh,
Deep thirst that only Your Life can control.

Give me an Easter Day like to Your own,
On which to rise above this hampering sod,
And leaving earth that blood and sweat has
known,
Travel a path that ends in life with God!

A Happy and Blessed Easter

ON THE NEGRO MISSION FRONT...

U. S. NEGRO MISSIONS 1944

Catholics	313,259
Churches	334
Priests	490
Converts (in 1943)	5,194
Schools	256
Pupils	53,350

Eighth Mission Church in Diocese

With the recent dedication of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Denison, Texas, by Most Rev. Joseph P. Lynch, D.D., Bishop of Dallas, the Diocese of Dallas now has 8 Colored Mission churches. They are St. Peter's and St. Anthony's in Dallas; Our Mother of Mercy and St. Veronica's in Fort Worth; Holy Spirit Church in Marshall; St. Peter Claver's in Texarkana; St. Peter Claver's in Tyler; and St. Benedict's in Denison. All these Missions are under the care of the Josephite Fathers, whose headquarters are in Baltimore, Md.

Incipient Mission

The beginnings of a second Colored mission in Birmingham, Ala., have been laid by the Fathers of the Society of St. Joseph. Mass is now being said every Sunday morning in the community auditorium of a housing project on the North Side of Birmingham. A suitable piece of land has been purchased on which it is intended to build a church as soon as the necessary materials are available.

The new mission is in charge of Father A. J. O'Reilly, S.S.J., pastor

of Immaculate Conception Church, the other Colored mission, which is located on the South Side. Immaculate Conception Mission has a grade school and high school — enrollment 400 — staffed by 8 Sisters of Notre Dame (Covington, Ky.) Father O'Reilly is assisted by Father Edward Lawlor, S.S.J.

Bequest to Negro Mission

When Mr. Fred A. Miller, chairman of the Miller Brewing Co., of Milwaukee, Wis., died in December, he left the sum of \$1,000 to St. Benedict the Moor Mission in Milwaukee, thus making a parting donation to the institution which the Miller family had first made possible by their financial aid.

St. Benedict the Moor Mission is in charge of the Capuchin Fathers of the Province of St. Joseph (Detroit, Mich.) A boarding school is



SCHOOL WAS BEGUN IN THIS BUILDING in September. The Church of Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd is on the first floor. The classrooms are upstairs. This 3-year-old Trenton, N. J., Mission is in charge of the Fathers of the Divine Word

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



NEWLY OPENED FRANCISCAN MISSION IN DETROIT

Our Lady of Victory Mission was begun in Detroit, Mich., in October of last year, thus giving the Motor City its fourth Colored Mission. Father Alvin Deem, O.F.M. (center), is in charge of the new mission. The Holy Ghost Fathers are in charge of the other three missions

attached to the mission and has an enrollment of 475 boarders and day pupils in the grammar grades and high school. Fourteen Dominican Sisters of Racine, Wis., teach in the school.

High School Interracial Programs

Eight white Catholic high schools in San Antonio, Texas, have inaugurated interracial programs among their student bodies, and have asked the Archdiocesan Committee on Interracial Relations 1) to supply speakers to address the high school students on interracial questions; 2) to supply biographies on interracial subjects; and 3) to furnish an outline of suggestions and activi-

ties of practical value.

High schools taking part in the program are: Central Catholic High, Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, Incarnate Word High School, Little Flower High School, Our Lady of the Lake High School, St. Henry's Academy, St. Michael's Academy and St. Patrick's Academy.

Diocese's First Negro Mission Church

The Church of the Holy Redeemer, the first Negro mission church in the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno, was dedicated in Fresno, Calif., by Bishop Philip G. Scher last December. Rev. Thomas Nealon, C.S.S.R., is the pastor.

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Rev. Michael Caswell, C.P., and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., with students of Holy Family High School, Ensley, Ala.

Another Step Forward for Ensley

- Alabama's Six-Year-Old Mission
- Is Really Going Places

Six years ago the Passionist Fathers came to Alabama to start a mission among the colored people of Ensley. They rented an empty store in which they made a chapel and living quarters for themselves. There were only six colored Catholics in Ensley at the time.

In the fall of 1938 the Fathers opened a grade school and procured the Felician Sisters of Chicago as teachers. Two years later the construction of a church was begun, and in February, 1941, the new brick Holy Family Church was dedicated

by Bishop Thomas Toolen of Mobile.

Meanwhile, the school had grown so that, besides the 6 Felician Sisters, a Missionary Sister of the Most Blessed Trinity had been given charge of the kindergarten.

Three years ago the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., were invited to take charge of the clinic which the Passionist Fathers had opened in connection with Holy Family Mission. Last year the Sisters opened a 16-bed hospital for

(Continued on page 96)



Holy Family High School, Ensley, Ala.

NOT CHARITY BUT JUSTICE

DENNIS BURNS, S.V. D.

- The Irish were persecuted for their Faith
- The Negro for the color of his skin

"The Irish," I once told a Negro confrere with whom I was discussing Gaelic History, "was the most persecuted race of history." Just like that!

Flatly, quietly, without rancor he asked: "What of the Negro?"

"Oh," I said, "that was different; the Irish were persecuted for their Faith!"

It wasn't till later that the strangeness of that remark struck me. The Irish were persecuted for their Faith. But the Negro is persecuted for the color of his skin!

What fools we are to think it matters for shame that one's skin should, by the good pleasure of God, be of a dark color. Surely, the religious oppression of the Irish was more logical than discrimination against the Negro, though not less hateful for that.

The English persecuted their island neighbors for the religion they professed. But religion is a system of life and thought for which each man is responsible. But how responsible is a man to be held for his skin?

I could attack a man's system of thought, a man's ideals, before I could attack him for something that is entirely beyond his control. I could fight against a Nazi because he is a Nazi and, as such, responsible for the tenets of the Nazi system. But I could not fight against a German because he is a German! I could oppose the military oppression of the Japanese because they are op-

pressive but not because they are Japanese. And I can oppose a Negro because he is a bad Negro but not because he is a *Negro*.

I neither say nor hold that all Negroes are perfect, any more than I say that all Whites are perfect. But I do say that the bad Negro is no more the representative of his race than Dillinger or Karpis or Hitler is representative of his. There are bad Negroes, not because they are Negroes, but because they are men. Not because, as some would have it, the Colored carry the mark of Cain on their foreheads, but because they carry the mark of Adam on their souls.

We are illogical to the extreme when we treat the Negro as inferior. When we say that the Negro is backward, we must hide Dr. George W. Carver and Prof. Franklin Frazier and Booker T. Washington. If we say that he is not talented, we must close our eyes to Countee Cullen and Richard Wright. If we say that he cannot be cultured, we must ignore Barthé and Hale Woodruff. If we say that he has nothing to offer, to American genius, we must drown out the voices of Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, which mock our protestations.

If we Americans pride ourselves on any one thing, it is that each man, despite the conditions into which he is born, may forge his own life according to the abilities that are his. We deny that right to the American Negro, the one right for which he

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Helping with the dishes after meals

LAFON HOME FOR BOYS

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V. D.

- New Orleans' Catholic Institution
- 51 Years Old

Back in 1893 the Lafon Home for Colored Orphan Boys was established through the generosity of Thomy Lafon, a wealthy New Orleans Negro. Today it is one of thirteen Colored Catholic orphanages in this country, three of which are for boys only.

Located on Gentilly Highway, New Orleans, La., the Lafon Home

is conducted by 12 Sisters of the Holy Family who care for 60 boys, ranging in age from a few months to fifteen years.

For their intellectual development, the boys attend regular classes covering the grammar grades. Some take music lessons, and a band has been organized.

For their physical development



Lafon Boys' Home, New Orleans, La.



Enjoying recreation on the playgrounds

and training they help with the work both inside and outside. There are the floors to be swept and mopped, the beds to be made, the tables to be set, the dishes to be washed. There are gardens to be weeded, lawns to be mowed, flowers to be cultivated, mules to be fed, cows to be milked, pigs, ducks and chickens to be looked after. The bigger boys gladly help on the farm.

The meals are good and substantial. The cows furnish plenty of rich, creamy milk such as growing boys need.

There is plenty of recreation and fun too. When the weather is fine, the boys go outdoors and run and romp, swing, jump and play ball to their hearts' content. At night, or when the weather is bad, they go to their playroom and get up an impromptu concert, or play games.

Of course, Religion plays an important part in their lives. At present, due to a shortage of priests, they must share their chaplain with the inmates of the Old Folks' Home, with the result that they have Mass

only every other day, but they may receive Holy Communion every day. Then there are the daily Catechism lessons, the daily good example of the Sisters, and the constant great privilege of having Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament under the same roof with them.

True, there is "no place like home," but the Lafon Boys' Home is as nearly like home as the good Sisters can make it.



The Sisters of the Holy Family, the second community of Colored Sisters established in this country, conduct also an orphanage for girls — St. John Berchmans' — and a home for the aged poor



Helping with the dishes after meals

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only every other day, but they may receive Holy Communion every day. Then there are the daily Catechism lessons, the daily good example of the Sisters, and the constant great privilege of having Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament under the same roof with them.

True, there is "no place like home," but the Lafon Boys' Home is as nearly like home as the good Sisters can make it.



The Sisters of the Holy Family, the second community of Colored Sisters established in this country, conduct also an orphanage for girls — St. John Berchmans' — and a home for the aged poor

A CONSECRATION

V. REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V. D.

- From Portugal to Mississippi
- Our Lady of Fatima extends her influence

The Feast of the Purification of Our Blessed Mother, better known as Candlemas Day and celebrated on the second of February, assumed a new significance for the members of the Southern Province of the Society of the Divine Word. More than 1900 years ago our Blessed Mother went, according to the custom of the Jewish Law, to the temple to offer up her Divine Son to His Heavenly Father. It was on that occasion that the venerable prophet Simeon, moved by the Divine Spirit, uttered those memorable words to Mary: "Behold this child is a light of revelation to the Gentiles and destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and a sign that shall be contradicted. And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34, 35). This was the beginning of the Way of the Cross for Our Mother of Sorrows, and it reached its acme of agony at the foot of the Cross thirty-three years later. Mary was chosen to suffer with her Divine Son so that men might live and be saved for Heaven and her spiritual children might know why and how to suffer.

This year the members of our Community here at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, gathered in the Seminary Chapel on the eve of the Feast of the Purification after the monthly spiritual recollection to offer themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was done in defer-



The apparition of Our Lady to the three peasant children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917

ence to the special request of our Holy Father, who already had dedicated the whole world to the Sacred Heart of Mary on the eve of All Saints' Day, 1942, in a worldwide radio broadcast at the solemn closing of the Silver Jubilee festivities of the miraculous apparitions of Our Lady to the three little children of Fatima, the "Lourdes of Portugal."

Last May Pius XII strongly

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

urged all the Religious Communities and Catholic people to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to atone for the many injuries offered to our loving God by men today more than ever before; and, last but not least, to appease the just anger of God and give a speedy and just peace to a war-mad world.

Our Society of the Divine Word is at present bleeding from a thousand wounds throughout the world. The great work of our saintly founder, Father Arnold Janssen, is almost destroyed. Most of the flourishing mission houses, the large training centers of the Divine Word Missionaries in Europe, are no more. The missions in foreign lands have become a prey to the relentless god of war and modern paganism. The mission stations are in shambles or deserted; their shepherds scattered or imprisoned and hundreds of thousands of converts are left orphans. Really a "sword has pierced the heart" of our Society and each loyal member of it.

However, in the midst of deep and intense suffering our present Superior General, the Very Reverend Father Joseph Grendel, S.V. D., D.D., does not despair. He knew well our saintly founder who, long before he ever dreamed of founding a missionary society, promoted a deep devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, perhaps to be prepared for such times of grief and sorrow as we are witnessing today. Later when inspired by the Holy Ghost to found the Society of the Divine Word, he chose both the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary as the principal patrons of the So-

ciety and bade the members to invoke both often during the day with these words: "Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, unite our hearts with Yours." No wonder that our Superior General, Father Grendel, asked all the members in these days of hardships and suffering not to despair but together with the Holy Father to seek refuge and consolation in the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It was inspiring to have all the priests and clerics with lighted candles kneeling in the Sanctuary, pronouncing together with the Brothers and students the thrilling and stirring words of the consecration as composed by our Holy Father Pius XII. We feel confident that Our Blessed Mother, who knows better than anybody else what suffering means and what it means to have the best and dearest in life destroyed by the sins of men, will have pity on our Society and commend all its members in these days of sorrow and suffering to her Divine Son.

One of the older members of our Province could not be present. He is confined to a sanitarium and is recovering from a dreadful disease after actually burning himself out in the Negro Mission Work to which he gave unselfishly and generously the best years of his priestly life. He was asked to make this consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary privately in the sanitarium. He did so and afterwards wrote me a touching letter. I quote some of his letter which will prove an inspiration to our readers and also show of what mettle the heart of a true missionary is made and how it beats

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"Last night according to your instructions I went to the gallery of the church to dedicate myself as a member of the Society of the Divine Word of the Southern Province to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. While I was kneeling there at the railing and looking at the statue of our dear Lady, my heart and soul went back to the beloved South with all its hardships and disappointments, but also with all its joy and happiness. And from the Mother of God my look crossed the beautiful sanctuary to the Tabernacle to her Divine Son, whose Name we proudly bear. I don't know how long I looked, but words of gratitude surged up from the bottom of my heart. And I felt and experi-

enced a love for this beloved Society deeper than ever before, because she is crushed and bleeding from many wounds, inflicted by the cruel hand of war.

"I am with you and your family today, pledging you and our Society unfaltering loyalty and support. And my support now is my Rosary, *my mother's beads*. How I love my Rosary, I can hardly tell you, and how I use it, the good Lord only knows that.

"I have permission from the Doctor to say Mass tomorrow. I will do so for those members of our beloved Society who have sacrificed their lives, have fallen on the battlefield in the great struggle for souls."

On my recent visitation I showed this letter to one of his classmates, also a missionary in the Deep South. With quivering lips and a tear glistening in his eye he just said: "Some fine points for my meditation tomorrow morning."



EASTER MAY COME, AND EASTER MAY GO, BUT THE FEMININE PARADE
EVER CONTINUES



SISTERS OF SOME OF THE 80 COMMUNITIES ENGAGED IN NEGRO MISSION WORK
 Holy Family Sisters (e.g., No. 1 in first row), Dominican Sisters (No. 2), Blessed Sacrament Sisters (No. 4), Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters (No. 1 in top row), and Holy Ghost Missionary Sisters (No. 1 in row next to top)

Angels of the Colored Missions

In the Colored Missions of the United States today there are over 1,700 Sisters representing 80 different communities. These Angels of Christian Charity, who are devoting their lives to the service of the Negro's spiritual and corporal needs for the Love of God, are spending day after day, year in and year out, teaching in the schools, nursing in the hospitals, serving in the homes and institutions of the Negro Missions, North, South, East and West.

In the picture at the top of this page five communities of Sisters laboring in the Southern Missions are represented:

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boarding academies), 2 orphanages and 1 home for the aged.

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Examinations

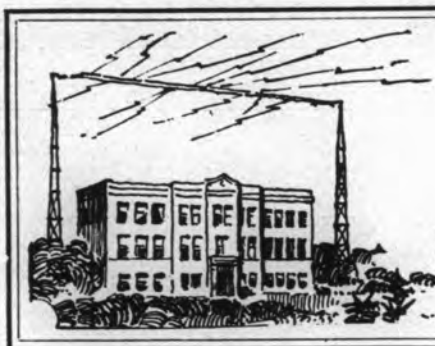
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Afterwards a two-day vacation of hiking and playing various games was highly enjoyed. At this present time the study-grind continues, and as far as things look on the outside, everybody appears happy (?) as he pounds back at the old books!



TWO FATHERS CLARENCE!

Father Clarence Tittel, O.F.M., and our own Father Clarence Howard, S.V.D., enjoying (?) a light snowfall. Picture was taken in Kansas City, Kans., when the S.V.D. Father Clarence was giving a mission in the Franciscan church there. The Franciscan Father Clarence, now stationed in Home Place, La., recently paid a visit to St. Augustine's Seminary to renew acquaintance



Seminary

BROAST from

St. Augustine's Seminary St. Louis

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Movies

"High Wide and Handsome" held the appreciation of our movie-goers. An ideal, fast-moving plot characterized the picture, as it captivated the interest of the audience. The gigantic exploits of 'Pop-Eye, the Sailor Man,' filled the comic feature and brought forth many a hearty laugh.

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As a token of congratulation and generosity, the members of the Sacred Heart Council, No 31, of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, presented a check of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to Father Harold Perry, S.V.D. This thoughtful gift was given to Father Perry January 6, the day of his Ordination.

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Rev. Norbert Georges, O.P., editor of *The Torch*, a widely read Catholic magazine, was a welcome visitor during the month. It was indeed a great privilege to meet and talk



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Catholic Negro Artist

Richmond Barthé, world-famed sculptor and painter, traveled from his New York studio and visited relatives here in Bay Saint Louis last month. The Seminary was likewise fortunate to share in his visit.

For a period of two hours the Fathers and major seminarians had the opportunity of conversing with Mr. Barthé and exchanging informal views about the fine arts of sculpture and painting. Meanwhile, Mr. Barthé displayed numerous photographs of his artistic works and commented at length upon the technical and narrative background of each. From that display of artistic pictures, the onlooker can see

plainly that this promising and prominent sculptor has not limited his activity only to his own racial group. His art is truly broadminded and universal: his art includes persons, subject matter, and themes of other races and foreign countries.

While in our midst the young sculptor uttered lofty thoughts about Christ and partly revealed his future plans of carving the God-Man in beautiful marble. At this particular time he reads and reflects deeply upon the biographies of Christ. With eager expectation we await the sculptured masterpiece of the Divine Master, as represented by the genius and work of Richmond Barthé.



LITTLE BOYS AT EASTER

A. C. WINTERS, S.V. D.

(The boy in the sanctuary:)

This is the happy Easter Day.
 I serve the holy Priest.
 The prayers he says I long to say,
 Some distant day at least.
 But altar, priest, naught would be here,
 And prayers would be a loss,
 Had not He conquered Death and Fear,
 Who died upon the Cross.

(The boy in the choir:)

Today is Resurrection Day,
 And I am in the choir,
 Where prayer is sweet and hearts are
 gay,
 And hymns rise higher and higher.
 Our songs would be but sounds of grief,
 And mutterings of sin,
 Lamenting would be master, if
 This day had never been.

(The boy in the pew:)

Today is Easter Day, and I
 Am kneeling in the pew,
 I saw the morning sun, so high,
 Down-beaming on the dew.
 But oh! this sun would not seem bright
 And happy overhead,
 Had not the King of Love and Light,
 Arisen from the dead.

**SOLEMN PENTECOST
 NOVENA
 MAY 19-27**

Examinations

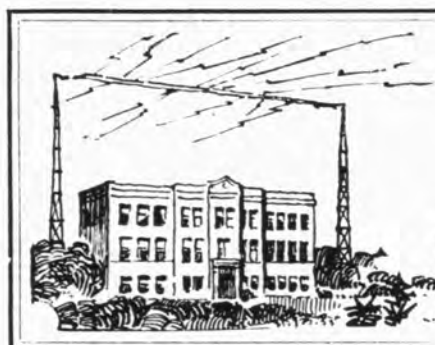
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**SOLEMN PENTECOST
 NOVENA
 MAY 19-27**

JOHN and KAY

MAURICE ROUSSEVE, S.V. D.

● A Parable

I. Home

Joe and John were having their last fight. Brothers sometimes fight, you know.

Their mother made it their *last* fight!

"Joe, go upstairs this minute and don't come down till tomorrow morning! — What's the matter now, John?"

"But, Mom, he started it!"

"No matter, John. You're older. You'll be twelve next week, old enough to know better. Listen, John, two wrongs never yet made one right, nor ever will. You hear me? Never forget it."

John never forgot.

II. School

John was a wizard at his books. He took to books naturally. Maybe he didn't make many friends, but he liked to study.

John finished college, coming out a graduate pharmacist.

III. Marriage

John fell in love with Kay Fisher. She wasn't the type for him. Kay was flighty, flimsy, irresponsible — a butterfly.

He gambled. She won. They were married.

People who knew them both shook their heads, saying, "What a pity! John could have done much better."

IV. Troubles

Kay was quiet for a while after the marriage. People began saying,

"She's settled down!" Others asked themselves, "For how long?"

They didn't have long to wait. First it was parties, joy rides, night rambles, and so forth — for Kay. What could John do? He stayed at home, compounding medicine and hoping Kay would change.

Kay didn't change. One day she left him, never to return. He found a note pinned to her pillow: "John, Darling, I'm going. I can't stand this any longer. Forgive me!"

John didn't run to the divorce court or think about finding another Kay. He had married for life. "For better, for worse," they had said, "until death!"

The world had only one thing to say, "I told you so!"

John had nothing to say to anybody about what he thought or felt. Only, at times he felt compelled to tell gossipers, "I'm sorry, but she's my wife!" They knew what he meant, and so they changed the subject without a fuss.

V. Death

One day the telephone rang.

"Come over to the City Hospital right away. Your wife's been in a terrible accident. No hope. The priest is at her bedside now."

In five minutes John was in a taxi, headed for the hospital.

A nurse conducted him to her bed. The priest had just left. Kay was resting as well as she could, all swathed as she was in bandages.

"Kay!"

"Is — is that you, John, Darling?"

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Oh, John, f-f-forgive me! I'm so sorry!"

"Take it easy, Kay. Forget it. It's all over. I'm coming to take you home, dear."

"Oh, John!"

It was over. Kay was dead.

John took her home with him. He bought the best coffin his means would allow. In the course of the sermon, the priest spoke about Magdalenes finding places in Heaven. John thought of what his mother had said long ago.

USING DEMOCRACY

RUTH TAYLOR

"We must use our democracy or we must lose our democracy." I copied that line from a speech by Dr. James E. Sheppard, President of the North Carolina College for Negroes.

I copied it not because it was written in a speech on or for Negroes — but because to my way of thinking it expressed the basic principle back of all talk on the democratic way of life. The class, creed, or color of an American is unimportant. It is how he or she expresses in work and action the principles of equality that is America.

"We must use our democracy or we must lose our democracy." It is for that way of life we are fighting today — not for a party nor for persons — but for the one way that affords a chance for the improvement of everyone's chances and for everyone's right to live. Democracy is not a way of privilege for any one group, be it majority or minority. Democracy is a way of opportunity for *all* people.

Democracy is a way, however, and not the destination. One cannot overturn ancient prejudices in a day nor confer great powers upon individuals or groups of individuals until they demonstrate their ability and willingness to exercise it for the general good. Great social wrongs exist; they must be righted but without any vengeance. In short, the pendulum must not swing too rapidly lest it swing too far.

The easiest thing in the world is to be a critic, and it is easy to criticize the progress already made, and the rate at which it has gone. We are all impatient. Time does not move fast enough. Our

minds outstrip events. But we cannot overlook the one basic fundamental that the American way of democracy, slowly but surely, has brought fairer dealings and a better opportunity than any other way of life.

To be sure, there are some people who cherish intolerance above the needs of their country. Fortunately, however, despite the fact that they are very vocal, they are a relatively small minority. Probably they cannot be won over, but the great majority of our people honestly believe in the principles of democracy and can be won by education to put that democracy into action. They can be shown that it is only groups who are "majority" or "minority" — and that individuals must be judged upon their own actions regardless of the group from which they stem. Therefore, as they learn to respect individuals, so will they learn not to misjudge the groups from which those respected individuals come.

"We must use our democracy or we must lose it." The democratic way is the best way of personal responsibility as well as of personal rights. Each and every member of a democratic country is charged with the duty of living up to its ideals and practices of thinking and working for the best interests of all at all times. Each and every one of us has a share and an opportunity in this great task. No one of us is too humble, no one of us too lowly to contribute to the common good. There is no one of us who cannot follow the democratic way. If we each do our part, we can use our democracy and we will not lose it.

APRIL'S SAINTS

April 9 — Easter

The death of sin has been conquered by the Conqueror. Today's feast is a most important one for, as St. Paul puts it, "if Christ be not risen, then is our faith vain." But to rise with Him we must first die to sin. Have you made your Easter duty yet? Purge out the leaven of sin by a genuine confession and worthy communion; then you too will appreciate St. Paul's exhortation: "this is the day which the Lord has made (for you) rejoice."

April 10 — St. Ezechiel

It is well for us to realize that not all the saints honored by the Church lived in the period of the New Testament. Today the Church honors one of the four great Prophets and the author of a canonical book of Holy Scripture. He lived around 600 years before Christ and spoke to the Jews who had been carried away as prisoners to Babylon. The Book of Ezechiel abounds with visions and symbolical actions and allegories. For reproving the sinful practices of a Jewish judge, Ezechiel was put to death. Ask him to obtain for all of us the grace to be Catholics in word and especially in deed.

April 16 — St. Benedict Joseph Labre

A truly remarkable life did this humble French saint live. He tried to enter various religious orders but could not fulfill certain requirements, especially in the line of mental qualifications. He decided to lead a life of a wandering pilgrim and visited all the great churches throughout flourishing Catholic countries such as France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Switzerland. He was known as the "Holy Tramp," for he begged his food but would not accept any money. At Rome they pinned a different name on him: "the Saint of



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the 40 Hours Devotion," for he went from church to church wherever that devotion was being held. His funeral resembled a triumphal procession. He was canonized in 1881. Pray to him for a love of true humility and self-sacrifice.

April 17 — St. Anicetus

Called upon to lead the Church in the dreadful times of the Roman persecution, this second-century pope admirably fulfilled his task. Tradition has it that he, like his predecessors, suffered martyrdom for the faith. Our Holy Father Pius XII was chosen by

God to guide His Church in very trying times. Pray to St. Anicetus, a pope and martyr, to intercede for our present Pope, Pius XII.

April 26 — Patronage of St. Joseph

"God has never refused any request that I've made through St. Joseph." Thus spoke St. Teresa of Avila. The powerful intercessory influence of this saint in heaven can be seen from the tremendous dignity with which he was favored by God. Foster father of the Son of God and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church wisely honors him as her "Universal Patron." Pray to him for the men and women in the armed service.

April 27 — St. Peter Canisius

"The second apostle of Germany," is the title bestowed upon this great German Jesuit of the sixteenth century. His untiring labors among the Protestants of Germany and Switzerland succeeded in bringing thousands of them back to the true faith. He wrote many learned works, his best being the "Catechism," which went through two hundred editions during his own life. Pray to him for the propagation of the faith.



"Quote and Unquote"

- What Others Are Saying Of
- And About the Negro

"Brig. General Johns, the commanding officer of Negro engineers down there, complimented them on the fine piece of work they had done at Mt. Isa. Without their skillful contribution, several important battles we won might have been lost, he said. But every commanding officer of our Negro troops, from Gen. MacArthur down, had only warm praise for the men under them and for the service they gladly gave their country. Our colored boys make excellent jungle fighters."

*Bishop John A. Gregg
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"Here at home there are specific things we can do. We can make up our minds that we will work with any other human being who does his daily work beside us and that we will not inquire as to his race or religion, only as to whether he is doing an honest job."

"We can decide that in public conveyances where each one of us pays for a seat we will not look askance at our neighbor no matter what his race or religion."

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

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"Let there be no more differences between our peoples, no more racial prejudices among ourselves; let there be no more hatreds stirred up; but let each citizen of the United States be vigilant for the enemies of his own nation, and when the agitators arise, as they did the other day in Los Angeles against

Mexicans, or in Detroit against Negroes, let the whole American nation rise up as one man to crush the breakers of the peace...."

*Vincente Lombardo Toledano
President, Confederation of
Workers of Latin America*

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"The Spanish peoples of America see with profound disgust that some races are persecuted and maltreated in this continent which should be the land of liberty and peace...."

"If Europe is burning with racial hate, let America be the land of liberty."

EL SINARQUISTA (Mexico)

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"I can assure you that our Local Unions are open to membership for those who qualify as operators of equipment coming within the jurisdiction of our International Union, and our Local Unions have been instructed that discrimination against applicants because of race, creed, or color will not be tolerated."

*William E. Maloney, President
International Union of Operating
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BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

Navy Commissions Open to Negro

After an intensified and prolonged campaign on the part of white and colored organizations, publications and prominent individuals, the Navy has at last opened its doors to Negro officers. Sixteen Negro petty officers are now undergoing intensive training under the Navy V-12 program for commissions in the U. S. Navy. Whether the commissions will pave the way for other Negro naval officers is not known at present. It is known, however, that the Navy is contacting Negro physicians and dentists to qualify as Naval Medical Corps officers. Six years ago the Navy held out little opportunity to the Negro other than that of messman. Today the Negro is being trained to become a commissioned officer. Thus, under the spearhead of soberly constructive criticism, the cause of the Negro to enjoy the right to fight for his country without restrictions is gradually going forward.

Noted Sheriff Dies

In the little county of Spartanburg, S.C., a seventy-year-old man who had won national acclaim passed away. His name was W. J. White, and he served as sheriff of that county from 1904 to 1920. In the year 1913, a large crowd learning that a Negro had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white woman, stormed the jail, dynamited its gate, and demanded possession of the accused. White faced the mob, warned them that he would shoot the first man to cross the entrance and prevented the lynching of the Negro. The accused prisoner was later acquitted by a jury of the charge. Sheriff White refused the proffered Carnegie medal for his act, saying he felt he had done only his duty.

Fourscore and Two for Josephite Priest

In the parish rectory of Holy Redeemer Church, San Antonio, Tex., the Very Rev. Lambert J. Welbers, S.S.J., quietly observed his 82nd birth-

day. In May, 1893, Father Welbers with four other Josephite priests came to this country to establish an organized movement for the conversion of the Negro. The steady growth and success of the work of the Josephite Fathers in the Negro apostolate bear eloquent testimony to God's blessing and approval of the stout-hearted, self-sacrificing efforts of the priests of the Society of St. Joseph, commonly called the Josephites, who dedicate themselves exclusively to the spiritual welfare of the Negro in this country. In his stay at Holy Redeemer Church, Father Welbers has succeeded in erecting a well-equipped plant, which includes the church, school, rectory and hall. *Ad multos annos, Father!*

Negro Heads Chicago Racial Body

On January 5, Mr. Robert C. Weaver was appointed the new Chief of Minority Groups Service of the War Manpower Commission for the city of Chicago. The appointment of the Mayor's Committee was highly praised by both the city's mayor, Edward J. Kelly, and the chairman of the committee, Mr. Edwin R. Embree. Mr. Weaver is thirty-seven years old and has distinguished himself as one of the outstanding and ablest of the Negro group today. He graduated with honors from Harvard and later received a Doctor of Philosophy in economics from that university. For the past ten years he has been employed in various administrative positions in the Department of the Interior. In 1942 he was appointed Chief of the Negro Manpower Service of the War Manpower Commission and in 1943 the head of all minority group services of that commission. Mr. Weaver has written many articles dealing with the Negro and Industry.

U of I Medical School Places Negro on Staff

To Dr. N. O. Calloway goes the distinction of becoming the first Negro to be accepted as a full-fledged member

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of the house staff of the Research and Educational Hospitals of the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago. These hospitals lay special emphasis on the diagnosis and treatment of difficult cases from the State of Illinois, and teaching the newer and refined techniques of medical practice to interns and resident physicians.

First Native Nun Dies

South Africa's first native girl to become a nun died at the age of 90. Sister Xavier had been a religious for almost 75 years, taking the habit in 1870. Although too old to engage in active mission work in her last years, Sister Xavier devoted her time to spinning, and worked until her last day on earth.

Negro Youngsters Succeed Despite Physical Handicaps

The Rebecca Elsborg Memorial Award given annually to one boy and one girl graduating from the Manhattan public schools went to two Negro youths, Elizabeth Lewin, 14 years, and Richard Pope, 13 years old. The award stresses proficiency in studies, conduct and character. The prize consists of \$150 and an engraved certificate of citation. Pope is the highest ranking boy in his class. His father is dead and his mother is an invalid. After school he helps with household duties and takes care of his two younger brothers. He plans to become a radio engineer.

Elizabeth Lewin is the daughter of a chemist. She has been an invalid all her life. Next year she will enter Washington Irving High to study laboratory chemistry. She plans to follow in her father's footsteps as a chemist.

White Georgia Chairman Favors Ballot for Negro Soldiers

The branch office of the NAACP located in Atlanta, Ga., received the reply of the chairman of the Georgia Committee of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation to the effect that

"the Negro as a citizen has his rights and deserves all privileges accorded to other citizens of the land. Conduct and services, not class or color, should determine the rights of citizenship. Each and all, white and black, are citizens of the same country fighting under the same flag, and should be given the privileges for which both have fought in every war waged by this country."

Navy's Lone Negro Officer

Lieutenant (jg) Clarence Samuels, a native of Panama, is the only Negro commissioned officer in the U. S. Navy. He has spent twenty-three years in the Coast Guard and during that time has been in charge of a cutter in Savannah, Ga., of the Coast Guard unit at Manhattan Beach, N.Y., and of a unit near Norfolk, Va. He has seen service in various war theaters and is known for his excellence as a signal man and expert pistol shooting.

AFL Machinists Down Color Barrier

Electing a twenty-seven-year-old ex-University of Minnesota Negro football star, Thomas Bell, to its executive board, workers of Local 703, International Association of Machinists, AFL, voiced their attitude towards the long-entrenched anti-Negro rule. Local 703 represents over 5,000 aircraft workers of the Curtiss-Wright Propeller Corp. of New Jersey.

Negro and White Soldiers March Together in South

At a mammoth third war loan parade held in Atlanta, Ga., on September 29, spectators were amazed to see white and colored soldiers marching shoulder to shoulder. The unit, which included many Negro soldiers, was part of the medical detachment stationed at the army's Lawson General Hospital.

**BUY A BOND THIS WEEK
AND EVERY WEEK!**



With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

Organize Foresters

St. Anselm's Parish, Chicago, Ill., made the headlines this year when thirty of its members were initiated into the Catholic Order of Foresters, and thus became the second colored group in that organization. Father Gerard Heffels, S.V. D., is the spiritual director of the newly organized group.

Odds and Ends from Pine Bluff

Father Francis Kowalski, who went as assistant pastor to St. Peter's Church in Pine Bluff, Ark., last August, writes the following:

"Father Kempinski, the pastor, and myself are cooperating nicely.



Sometimes mission-minded students of white Catholic schools find an outlet for their zeal by supplying First Communion veils and dresses for poor children in the Colored Missions, as witness these two representatives of the students of Providence High School in Chicago who furnished Communion dresses for some of the little girls of St. Elizabeth's School

Two 'Skis' are better than one, both in quality and quantity. Things are brightening up regarding the attitude of the people toward our Holy Catholic Faith. It is slow work, but we know only too well that God's mills grind very slow and fine.

"With the Religion classes, the taking care of the two Praesidia of the Legion of Mary, the instruction of converts, dabbling in the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts (not as yet but soon), trying to give the Cubs a hand, keeping the children cheerful and out of too much trouble on the playgrounds, refereeing a good game of tackle or basketball now and then, and once in a while taking a breath of fresh air, and as usual the three repasts, among other things I am living and happy. It is fun doing things for God. Whoever denies this statement never tried it."

Library Opened

A small lending library has been opened under the patronage of Blessed Martin de Porres in the Mission of Our Lady of the Divine Shepherd, Trenton, N. J. It is proving a boon, not only to the Catholic members of the parish, but also to prospective converts and to the children.

When you finish reading this magazine please pass it on to someone else to read. This will both conserve paper and help our work.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

BISHOP VISITS SPIRITUAL SONS. During a recent trip to Louisiana the Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, D.D., Bishop of Natchez, Miss., paid a visit to those colored Fathers who were ordained by him and who are now doing missionary work in the Diocese of Lafayette, La. (Reading from left to right): Fathers Leander Martin, Maurice Rousseve, Francis Wade; Bishop Gerow; Very Rev. John Brunini, Chancellor of the Diocese of Natchez; Fathers Maxine Williams and Richard Winters. Fathers Anthony Bourges and Alexander Leedie are not shown in the picture



★ ★ FROM OUR BOYS IN SERVICE ★ ★

We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. Your letters will be published on this page for the benefit of the folks at home. — Ed.

Rev. dear Father:

The opportunity for sitting down comfortably to write a good letter seems a bit uncertain and far away, so I'll just begin with a note tonight. I'm sitting on my foot-locker in my barrack, not far from one of the large heaters that keep the place warm. . . .

We had a swell trip here — Pullman cars and diners. Sixty-three of us came here from Camp Shelby. I was made acting sergeant of the group throughout the trip. The meals were fine.

It wasn't I who chose the Air Corps. Uncle Sam has a way of placing his nephews where he likes to see them. They said I did an exceptionally good job of the general, specific and radio tests.

I'm in my 17th day of basic training. It is supposed to last 56 days at most. . . . When it's over, I may go to Howard University. Say a prayer for me, Father.

Every Sunday I have a chance to go to Mass and Communion. I have al-

ready served Mass for two consecutive Sundays. There are but a few colored Catholics here in camp. Ten o'clock Mass is said in the theatre on Sundays on account of the crowd. The boys are very friendly and companionable. They're glad to have us at Mass, and give us the preference of serving at the altar. Father Martin of New York is an ideal chaplain.

Please give my very best regards to the community. It's time that I stop now. Soon the bugle will send the whole B.T.C. No. 10 to bed "on the double."

Remember me at the altar.
Sincerely,

*Pvt. Matthew F. Skidmore
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CHILDREN'S CORNER



My dear Boys and Girls:

A Happy Easter to all of you!

I know that all of you know what Easter is and why we celebrate it. But I wonder if, without anybody's help, you would be able to find anything in the Bible about the first Easter? Suppose you try it. Just take your Bible or New Testament and begin looking through it to find something about the first Christian Easter in the world. Of course, you won't find the word "Easter," but you will find — *WHAT?*

Start now! Let us see who will be the first one to find it.

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: — This is the first time I am writing you. I have been reading the **CHILDREN'S CORNER** and the other articles in **ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER**, and how I enjoy reading them!

I am praying for this war to be over so that my brother and the other boys can come home. My brother George is in the Navy one year; he is in Trinidad Island, and we get a letter from him every week.

I am praying for you and the other Fathers at Bay Saint Louis and the boys that are going to be Fathers and Brothers. Yours truly,

Elaine Lemelle, age 15
317 S. Walnut Street
Lafayette, La.

Glad you wrote, Elaine; thanks for your prayers, and keep on praying that the war may come to an end — you owe it to your brother George.

Dear Father Howard: — I am sorry I didn't write you before. But being very

busy you know how it is. The children here haven't got through talking about your moving pictures yet. I am the girl you met at the railroad station.

We are sorry we didn't have a chance to have the party for you. But we hope you will be back next year, and then we will have the party for you.

My brother and I are going to subscribe for the **MESSENGER** as soon as possible. We were all glad to see our classmate's letter in the **MESSENGER** recently. Respectfully yours,

Carolyn Diamond, age 12
814 Jackson Street
Augusta, Ga.

Yes, Carolyn, I remember that you are the first pupil of Immaculate Conception School whom I saw when I got off the train in Augusta. I am glad that the children liked the pictures, and I will be looking forward to that party. Thanks for your letter, and by the way, that last line of your letter wouldn't by any chance be a gentle "hint" would it?

Dear Father Howard: — How are you? Fine, we hope. We enjoyed your last visit at our parish and school.

We have organized a St. Monica's Mission Club among the boys and girls in the 7th grade. We have 5 boys and 10 girls. The dues are five cents a month.

We are looking forward to making a big test so we may be promoted to high school.

We are going to have a Bingo game for our Mission Club soon. Sincerely yours,

Thelma Harris, age 13
1106½ East 22nd Street
Kansas City, Mo.

Best of luck and success in both your big test and your Bingo game. A mission club is a fine thing; keep it going at full speed!

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

Dear Father Howard: — I appreciate your printing my letter in the **CHILDREN'S CORNER**. I am praying for you every night.

Father, I was baptized a Catholic on December 31, and made my First Holy Communion on New Year's Day. It was the happiest day of my life.

Father, please pray for Cephus that he may become a Catholic, and ask the Seminary boys to do the same. He is the only one in our class who is not a Catholic now.

May God bless you. Respectfully yours,

Gladys Billings, grade 8
197 Eighth Street
Apalachicola, Fla.

Congratulations, Gladys! I am so happy to hear that you are now a Catholic. I know that you will always try to be a GOOD one. The Catholic Faith is a great gift, which we both must ask God to give to Cephus. Meanwhile, your good example will do a lot, too.

Dear Father Howard: — I am 14 and in the 10-A grade of Heart of Mary High School, and I am also the vice-president of our 10-A and B Club. James Seals is president, James Pritchard is secretary, Virdell Broadus is treasurer and Dorothy Greene is first counsellor.

We had a lovely Christmas party at dear Heart of Mary School. I was mistress of ceremonies. We served strawberry and vanilla combination ice cream, cake and mixed candy. Dorothy Greene and Vivian Pugh were on the refreshment committee. We also had a nice program.

On New Year's Day we had a football game against Mobile County Training School. The result was a tie — 0-0. Which shows that our boys are as well-trained as theirs, or vice versa.

We are studying hard in school now.

We remember you in our prayers, and are asking God to bless you. Yours respectfully,

Raymona Pickens, age 14
808 Monroe Street
Mobile 21, Ala.



Thanks for your "newsy" letter, Raymona. That must have been some swell party. Better luck in the next football game. I certainly appreciate your prayers, and you shall be remembered in mine.

A CHILD'S EASTER PRAYER

The Easter candles burn so bright
'Round Jesus' Altar-Throne;
Dear Lord, I pray with all my might:
Come, make my heart Thine own!

* * *

Whenever you visit the Risen Savior in the church during this Easter time do not forget to recommend to Him the many needs of the priests and Sisters working in the Colored Missions. Pray especially that more mission churches and schools may be opened this year.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V.D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

The Negro Press

"While there has been some justified criticism of some Negro newspapers for resorting to extremes in their crusading, these instances have been rare. On the whole, Negro newspapers have ably discharged their missions as champions of the rights of Negroes as citizens. Much of the headway that has been made toward fair opportunities for Negroes on a merit basis is due directly to the progressive influence of the Negro press."

The Indianapolis News
Indianapolis, Ind.

Not Charity But Justice

(Continued from page 77)

asks. Let us face the fact that all the Negro asks today is fairness, the equality of a Negro with a White, according to the capabilities of each. They do not ask to be elevated at the expense of their white brothers, as so many alarmists unwarrantably claim. They seek competition on an equal basis — in art, in study, in science, in business, in politics, in life. Not Charity, but Justice! And who are we to say no?

Another Step . . .

(Continued from page 76)

the Negro population of Ensley.

And now Holy Family Mission has moved another step forward with the opening of a parochial high school. One Father and two Sisters of Charity comprise the teaching

BUY BONDS

They'll stick by you when your war job is gone

staff. Registration was accepted only for the first and second years this year. Twenty-two students registered. It is planned to add the junior year this fall, and the senior year in the fall of 1945.

REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12, 46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rev. Joseph John, S.M.A.; died in Trinidad, B.W.I., November 1943. 20 years a priest.

Mrs. Carmelite Zimmerman; died in New Orleans, La., February 1944.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

GOD BLESS THEM!

Very Rev. Joseph Busch, S.V.D., Rector of St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Miss., recently received the following letter with a check enclosed:

St. Peter's School,
1503 State Street, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Dear Rev. Father Rector:

We, the pupils of the seventh and eighth grades of St. Peter's School, are inclosing a check for \$5.00 to help a poor boy who studies for the priesthood. It is our wish to have this money added to the Sacred Heart Burse. We have raised this amount by selling lunches, and also by saving our pennies and nickels which we could have spent for candies. We know it is a small sum, but maybe, next year we shall do better.

Father, we all ask you to pray for us and to remember us in your Holy Mass.

Sincerely yours,

The pupils of the seventh and eighth grades

"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

The MIDWESTERN POST

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M. A. Johnson, Editor

1720 COLUMBIA AVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS 2, INDIANA

Name

Street

City Zone State

BOOKS

Our Library is always in need of more good books.

And just now books on the Negro are especially welcome since we are trying to bring this particular section of our Library up to date and make it more complete.

If you can help us, kindly send your books or contributions to

REV. FATHER RECTOR

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Your Country Needs Your Help BUY MORE WAR BONDS TODAY!

If you want to put every bit of your surplus money into U. S. Bonds and yet would like to aid our Colored Mission work also, you can do both by purchasing Series F and G Bonds which can be made out in the name of our Seminary or of any one of our Missions.

STUDENT BURSES

A Burse, or Scholarship, of \$5,000 will take care of the complete education and training of one of our students for the priesthood. Won't you help us complete one of the following incomplete Burses?

Sacred Heart	\$3,901.25
St. Augustine	880.25
St. Matthias	839.50
St. Jude	574.00
St. Elizabeth	500.00
Holy Ghost	185.87
St. Madeleine Sophie Barat	100.75

Any amount large or small will be appreciated. Send donations to

REV. FATHER RECTOR

St. Augustine's Seminary

Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

St. Augustine's

M



ESSENGER



LADY OF THE LAKE

**This is the
Simple Interior
of Our Chapel**



St. Augustine's Seminary Chapel

Because our former small chapel was overcrowded we were forced to build this larger chapel in 1936. The building alone — though friends helped generously — brought us pretty close to the bottom of the proverbial barrel. Consequently, to cut down the bills, we had to use in the new chapel the old altars and statues and as many of the furnishings from the old chapel as possible. That was 8 years ago.

Now, feeling that these old and varied furnishings have served their purpose, we want to paint over and decorate the bare interior of our chapel, to procure altars and statues that match — in a word, we want to make the Seminary chapel a beautiful HOUSE OF GOD. Our first step will be to procure a fitting High Altar — marble, if possible. Then side altars, statues, stations, etc., will follow in order.

Won't you help us in this laudable task? Any amount you may give, no matter how small, will be appreciated; and may God bless you for your generosity!

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Dear Fathers:

Enclosed is my offering of I want to help you to
procure { ☐ the new High Altar
☐ the furnishings and decorations } for the Seminary chapel.
☐

Name

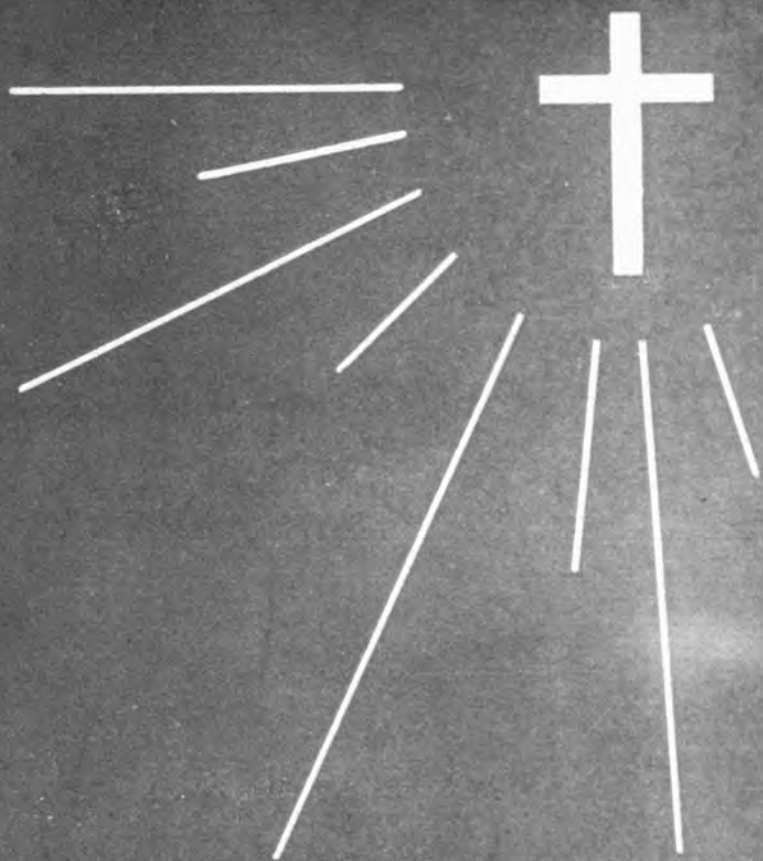
Address

City

Zone

State

St. Augustine's



M

ESSENGER

ST.
AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY
DAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

●
PUBLICATION OFFICE
TECHNY, ILLINOIS
●

Vol. XXII, No. 5
MAY, 1944

Postmaster: See inside cover



LADY OF THE LAKE

A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

● IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Boys: If you feel that God has called you
for the great work of SAVING SOULS

THINK IT OVER!
PRAY IT OVER!
THEN WRITE TO:

REVEREND FATHER PREFECT

St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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Members share in hundreds of Holy Masses said annually for the living and the deceased League members. They also share in the benefits of various indulgences as well as in the good works of the Fathers, Brothers and Seminarians of the Society of the Divine Word.

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St. Augustine's Seminary
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

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For information write to the

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ANNUITY PLAN
Society of the Divine Word
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Send for a free copy of our booklet:
"HOW TO INVEST"

POSTMASTER: Send notices of removal (Form 3578) to St. Augustine's Seminary,
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

PUBLISHED
TO MAKE THE
WORK OF THE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
AMONG
NEGROES
BETTER
KNOWN

● *St. Augustine's* ● **MESSENGER**

"The Magazine with a Message"

TO AID THE
Cause for which
S.V.D.
MISSIONARIES
ARE WORKING —
MORE
NEGRO PRIESTS
AND
RELIGIOUS

A Catholic magazine, published monthly, except July and August, at Techny, Ill., by St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Proceeds are used for the education of colored students for the priesthood.

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Editor: CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.
ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISS.

Volume XXII

MAY, 1944

Number 5



MOTHER

VERNON DAUPHIN, S.V.D.

Why is it that a mother's word
Upon a lonely hour
Speaks volumes to a weary heart,
Like some fragrant flower
Clinging closely to a moulding wall,
— While slowly dead leaves fall?

Why is it that a mother's smile,
When all your world goes wrong,
Soothes lonely heart's raging strife,
Like some angel's song
Wafting stealthily from heaven's
height,
— While darkly falls the night?

Why is it that a mother's love,
When skies are gray and dark,
Makes darksome clouds flee away.
Like some blithesome lark
Soaring gaily, up into the sky,
— While beneath pine trees sigh?

Ah, weary hearts, and souls of men,
E'er struggling towards the sun;
'Tis Mother leads us onward then
Until the goal is won.
God bless our mother's earthly way,
Be with her now and aye!

NOTED JESUIT EDUCATOR

Defends Negroes' Right to Full Catholic Education

(From a sermon preached to students of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., by the Rev. Claude H. Heithaus, S.J., Director of University Publications and Assistant Professor of Classical Archaeology)

"It is a surprising and rather bewildering fact, that in what concerns justice for the Negro, the Mohammedans and the atheists are more Christ-like than many Christians. The followers of Mohammed and Lenin make no distinction of color; but to some followers of Christ, the color of a man's skin makes all the difference in the world....

"Great Saints, such as Jesuit St. Peter Claver, carried sick Negroes in their arms and even kissed their festering sores, because they believed Our Lord when He said that whatsoever we do to the least of His brethren we do also to Him. But some people say that it is wrong to nurse a Negro in a Catholic hospital or educate a Negro in a Catholic university....

"The Blessed Trinity is pleased and the angels in Heaven rejoice when a Negro is united with Our Lord in Holy Communion. But some people say that it is indelicate to kneel beside a Negro at the Communion railing....

"I hate this snobbery against the Negro because it springs from the pride and prejudice which Christ hated.... I hang my head in shame when I see that some Catholics... have had the full strength of their Catholic convictions diluted by mingling with the descendants of their persecutors. I am horrified to find that some Catholics have been infected with this diabolical prejudice against the Negro. Self-deluded fools that they are, they cling with blind obstinacy to the idea that the time has not yet come to give justice to the Colored children of God....

"Now some people say that if the Society of Jesus gives Catholic Negroes the Catholic education which the Church wishes them to have, our White students will walk out on us. Is this true? I deny it. I say it is a lie and a libel. I challenge the whole world to prove that even one of our Catholic students will desert us when we apply the principles for which Jesus Christ suffered and died.

"I will go further and prove the opposite. I will prove it here and now. Catholic students, to whose welfare I have dedi-

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

cated my life and all that I have, listen to me! St. Louis University admits Protestants and Jews, Mormons and Mohammedans, Buddhists and Brahmins, pagans and atheists, without even looking at their complexions. Do you want us to slam our doors in the face of Catholics because their complexion happens to be brown or black?

"It is a lie. I see that you repudiate it with indignation. You scorn it all the more because you know that some of the very people who disseminate this lie have themselves sent their sons to Harvard and Yale, where they were glad to sit in the same classrooms with Negroes. These people bow in reverence before Oxford and Cambridge, the University of London and the Sorbonne, but if they ever attended these great universities, as I have, they would soon learn that in the world of scholarship there is neither White nor Black, Brown nor Yellow.

"Ignorance is the school of race prejudice, and provincialism is its tutor. Its memory is stuffed with lies and its mind is warped by emotionalism...it never learns what is true, and it never forgets what is false....

"I know that there is very little of this prejudice among you. What little remains, you can easily remove with prayer and the Sacraments. But among adults, and perhaps even among your own parents, there is still very much of it. Must Christ wait for 50 years until all those adults are dead, or will you speed the dawn of justice for the Negro by eradicating this prejudice wherever you find it?

"Your responsibility is very great, so great that it almost frightens me. Do you realize that if the Negroes are snubbed by the followers of Christ, they will turn in despair to the followers of Lenin? Do you realize that Communist agitators, specially trained in Moscow, have already made more than a hundred thousand converts among them, and are pouring out the vials of their wrath upon the Catholic Church, accusing it of being indifferent to the wrongs of the Negro?

"Who can fight this fire of hatred and indignation against Christ and His Church? Who can stop it from becoming a conflagration that will consume us all? Only Catholics can do it. Catholic leaders, White and Black, thoroughly grounded in Catholic principles and trained in Catholic universities, where the doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ is taught and practiced, and there is neither White nor Black, but all Christians are equal in Christ Jesus."



Sisters and pupils assist Father Anselm at the flag-raising ceremony just after the new flagpole has been erected on the school grounds

MISSION IN MONROE

V. REV. JOSEPH F. ECKERT, S.V.D.

- St. Therese brings the Converts
- Blessed Martin finds the Funds

One afternoon in the spring of 1940 I stopped at the Techny Mission Nursery, Techny, Illinois, to buy a bunch of gorgeous peonies so that Sister Paschal of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament could decorate St. Anselm's Church for our school graduation exercises. Brother Charles, S.V.D., the manager of the famous Mission Gardens, took generous care of my needs. While he was carefully packing up the flowers, he suddenly turned to me and, with joy beaming on his face, asked:

"Father, do you know that my brother, Father Anselm, has a Colored Mission in Monroe, La.? If you ever are in that neighborhood, please, look him up. He will be glad to see you."

Since that time Brother Charles, whenever we met in Techny, would

always ask me: "Have you seen my brother and his Mission? I wonder how he is getting along!"

Last fall 1943 I met Father Anselm Reckamp, O.F.M., when I was the fortunate guest of the ever kind and hospitable Franciscan Fathers in their new Mission House, West Monroe, La. Father Anselm was the first Franciscan Padre of the St. Louis, Mo., Province to take up Negro Mission Work in the Deep South at the urgent invitation of the ever zealous Bishop of Alexandria, the Most Reverend Daniel F. Desmond, D.D. Father Anselm made a start at Monroe, La., in the midst of a Protestant section of Northern Louisiana.

Later on other Franciscan Fathers followed, and in typical Franciscan fashion they are now pioneering in

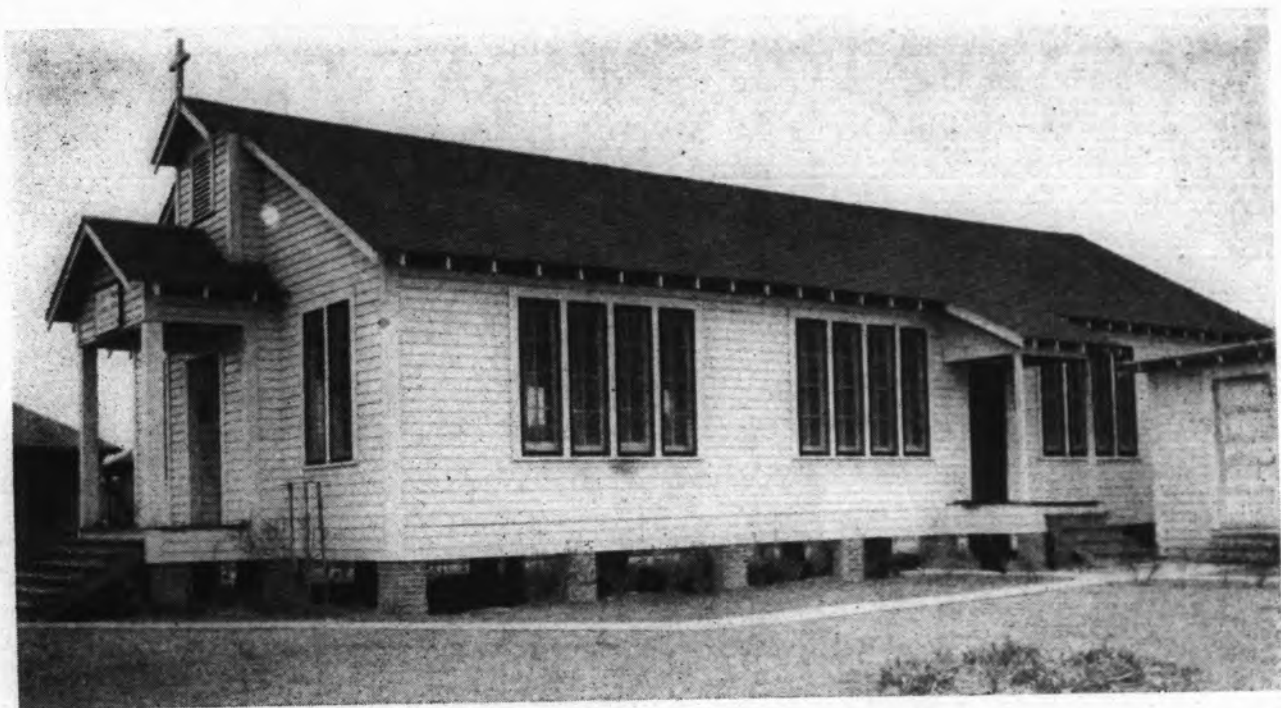
ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

more than ten counties which rarely or perhaps never had seen a Catholic priest before. Their work has already produced wonderful results by bringing fallen-away Catholics back to the Church, establishing many new mission centers, both for white and for colored.

Father Anselm, who, by the way, is one of a family of 19 children, arrived in Monroe in January, 1940, unknown and unheralded but equipped with priestly zeal and the determination to "make a go" of it. At once he began building a little chapel and placed it under the patronage of St. Therese, the Little Flower. A month later it was ready for services. In 1941 he added a fine school, which is roomy, modern and well-equipped in every way. An old house was remodeled into a neat and serviceable convent. Six Polish Franciscan Sisters from St. Louis, Mo., at present teach 192 neat and alert children, who are the joy and consolation of Bishop Desmond and Father Anselm.



A "BABY RUTH" FOR THE BISHOP
His Excellency, Bishop Daniel F. Desmond of Alexandria, takes time out to enjoy a snack furnished by the refreshment committee of Little Flower Mission



LITTLE FLOWER MISSION CHURCH, MONROE, LA.



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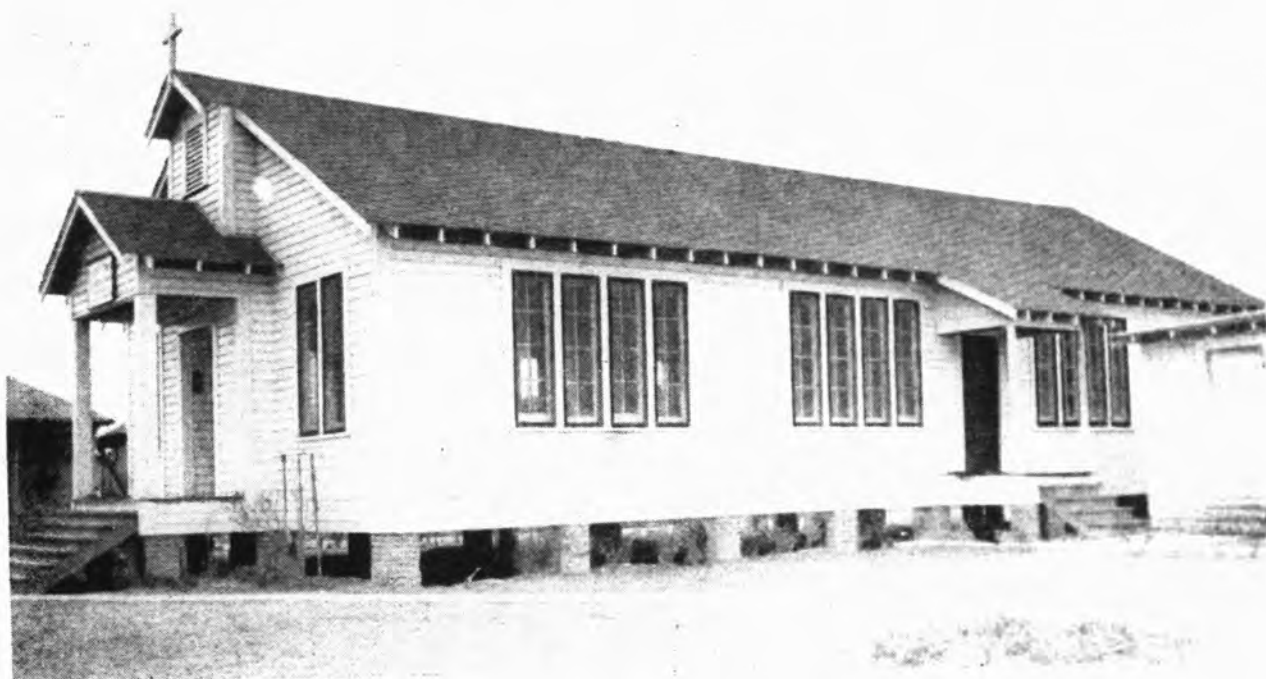
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ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



THE CONGREGATION THAT GREW

This picture was taken four years ago when Father Anselm celebrated Mass for the first time in the new Little Flower Mission. Today the congregation numbers over 250

On June 29, 1942, a fire destroyed the chapel. Father Anselm built a better one in its place.

The growth of the mission has been phenomenal. Perhaps it was the blessing of the sacrifice which Father Anselm was required to make by his Divine Master when he was appointed for this mission by his late Father Provincial Vincent Schrempp, O.F.M. In religious obedience Father Anselm had to leave the classroom and give up the training of young men for the priesthood at St. Joseph's College, Westmont, Ill., which job he dearly loved, and go into an unknown country and take up an entirely new work among strangers.

After less than four years the Little Flower Mission in Monroe, La., has a complete plant: church, school, rectory, convent, hall, and a

spacious playground. A great deal of the carpenter and plumbing work was done by Father Anselm himself, who can handle a hammer, saw and pipe wrench as skillfully as he can a test tube in the laboratory.

The spiritual growth of the Mission has kept pace with the physical development. When Father Anselm came to Monroe, he found a handful of Colored Catholic people scattered over the town. *At the first Holy Mass on the first Sunday of February, 1940, thirteen Catholics attended. Today about 150 Catholics and about 50 Protestants attend the two Holy Masses every Sunday, which is a very encouraging and excellent record.*

From the very beginning convert classes were conducted which in less than four years brought 235 converts so that the Mission today has well

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

over 250 members. A large convert class was under instruction at the time of my visit and is now about ready for Baptism. Father Anselm also has the various church societies organized and functioning.

This is really and truly a success which even the greatest optimist and enthusiast could hardly have anticipated. However, one who has spent a little time with this congenial and ever-smiling Padre, observed his winsome and kind-hearted Franciscan ways, and listened to his enthusiastic talk, soon senses the secret of his success. It is his apostolic and tireless zeal and solicitude for souls; it is his undaunted courage and never flagging energy which neither knows nor brooks any difficulties and reverses. He actually *lives* the words of St. Paul, which the late Cardinal Mundelein — on my first meeting with him in September, 1921, after my appointment to little St. Monica's Mission on the South Side of Chicago — gave me as a motto for my work: "TO BE SUCCESSFUL, ONE MUST SPEND AND BE SPENT."

However, Father Anselm has another answer to the rapid growth of the Little Flower Mission which

he revealed with a smile on his face in answer to my question: "How did you accomplish all this in such a short time and whence did you secure the necessary means with which to do it?"

"Blessed Martin is my procurator," he said, "and St. Therese, the Little Flower, brings me the converts. Both Saints have never failed me yet."

The Little Flower Mission in Monroe, La., is another evident proof that the Mission Work of the Church among the Negroes is fruitful and that the alms and prayers of the Faithful in our Catholic North have not been offered in vain.

* * *

Editor's Note: In West Monroe, La., just across the Ouachita River (pronounced Wash'-i-taw) from Monroe, the Franciscan Fathers have another Negro Mission, St. Charles' Church, built in 1941. The school, opened last year, has five grammar grades which are taught by two Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. Louis, Mo.).

**Be American !
Buy U. S. WAR BONDS**



ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., is a colored mission in charge of the Edmundite Fathers. It was built in 1941. A year later a school was opened under the direction of 4 Sisters of the Holy Union of the Sacred Hearts (Fall River, Mass.)

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER



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Capuchin Charity Knows No Color Line

VERNON DAUPHIN, S.V.D.

● Where all help, and all are helped

When Catholics and Protestants unite in dispensing charity, a slight interest is awakened; but, when Catholics, Protestants, Jews, colored and white, all unite for such a purpose, something of a stir is caused. Just such a curious story leaked out in the Negro Press recently under the equally curious caption: "All Men Are Equal At Capuchin Fathers' Bonaventure Monastery."

For years the Capuchin monks of St. Bonaventure's Monastery, New York, had been doing their utmost to feed and care for Christ's poor, who found their way to the monastery door. Came the depression, and with it an ever-increasing line of suffering humanity — the jobless, the sightless, the cripples, the old and the homeless formed a queue of want at the monastery kitchen. Nothing unusual about that. Bread-lines were stretched all over the country during the depression. But there was a difference here; this bread-line of New York's poor was administered to by bearded, brown-robed monks, who looked more like denizens of the desert with the hermit St. Anthony than modern inhabitants of New York, and who made no distinctions as to whose stomach was being filled. Catholics, Protestants, Jews, white and colored were attended to with a kindness they had never met with elsewhere. As many as 2,000 men were fed in one day. Frequently it happened that one third of those cared for were colored.

In 1928 a guild — the Capuchin Charity Guild — was formed to as-

sist the Capuchin Fathers. This Guild is a strictly democratic organization in every way. The president is the kindly, silvery-locked monk, Father Bernard Burke; the secretary, a Protestant, is Sheriff Andrew W. Baird; the vice-president is a Jew. And, recently, Negroes came to the assistance of the monks in a notable way.

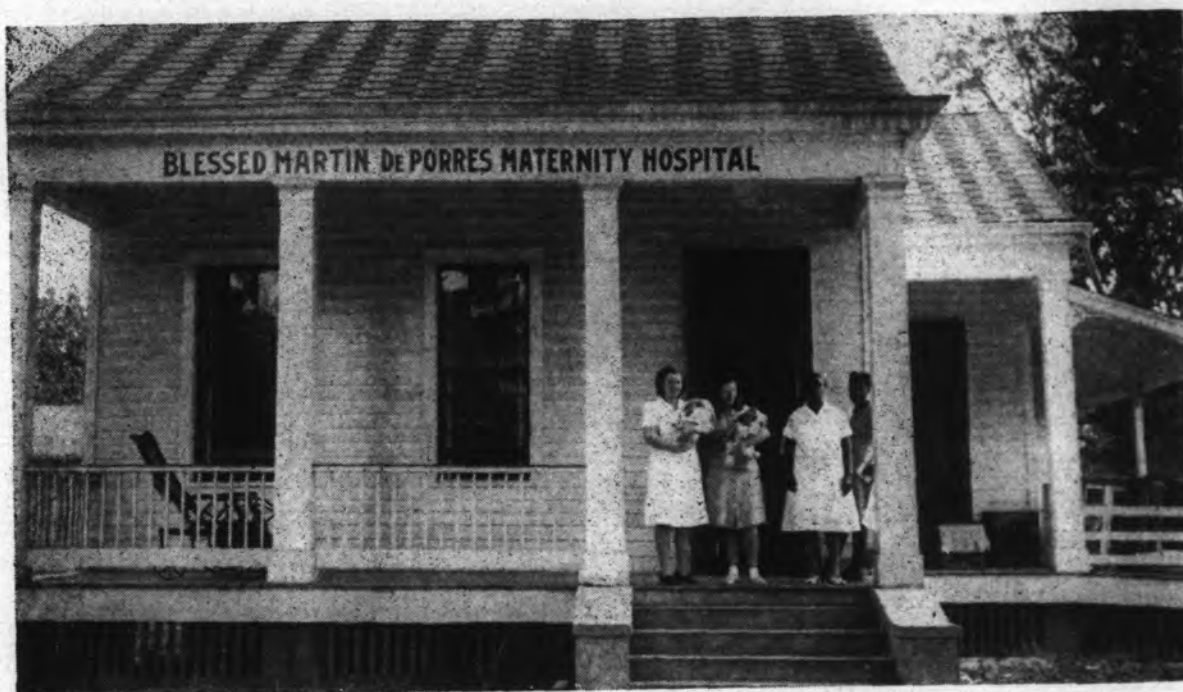
The Fathers needed a new refrigeration plant for their kitchen. Between the new refrigerators and the monks stood \$16,000, and there was not the slightest indication as to whence the money was to come. Secretary Sheriff Baird started a drive for funds among the colored, and enlisted the aid of Rev. James Jones, colored Protestant minister of Triumph Church. When the drive was closed, it came to light that Rev. Jones was the largest single contributor to the Capuchins' Guild, having made a contribution of \$5,000. Recently, as a token of appreciation, the Fathers publicly presented Reverend Jones with a War Bond at the monastery in the presence of the members of a party who inspected the new refrigeration plant.

Among contributors to the Capuchin Charity Guild are found about 250 Detroit men, some of whom are the heads of large business concerns; others are garage mechanics, factory workers or clerks.

Aside from their life of prayer and devotion to Christ's poor, about 50 of these Capuchin monks do missionary work in various communities.

"Sometimes," Father Burke re-

(Continued on page 109)



Blessed Martin De Porres Maternity Hospital

CLARENCE J. HOWARD, S.V.D.

● Fulfilling a Pressing Need

Three years ago the Catholic Diocese of Mobile, Ala., took steps to provide facilities for the care of maternity cases among the rapidly expanding colored population of Mobile, and thus to cut down the high percentage of infant mortality. A small house was acquired, renovated and fitted out as a small hospital under the patronage of Blessed Martin De Porres.

The leading spirit in this movement was Doctor Renecke, a white Catholic physician, who gave freely of his resources and his time. There were 92 births in the little six-bed hospital during its first year. No mother was lost, and only one baby died. Of the 92 mothers only 13 were Catholic. Most of the patients were poor and paid a very small fee or nothing.

In 1942 Bishop Thomas Toolen of Mobile obtained two Sisters of Mercy from Baltimore, Md., to take charge of the hospital. Two small wings were added to the hospital and a modern delivery-table was acquired.

Today Blessed Martin De Porres Maternity Hospital consists of two wards containing six beds each, a nursery, a well-equipped delivery room, a modern kitchen, office and consultation room. On the staff are a doctor, two Sisters, a trained nurse and a nurse's aid. Almost 600 deliveries have been made since the hospital was established in 1941.



THE NURSERY

Capuchin Charity Knows No Color Line

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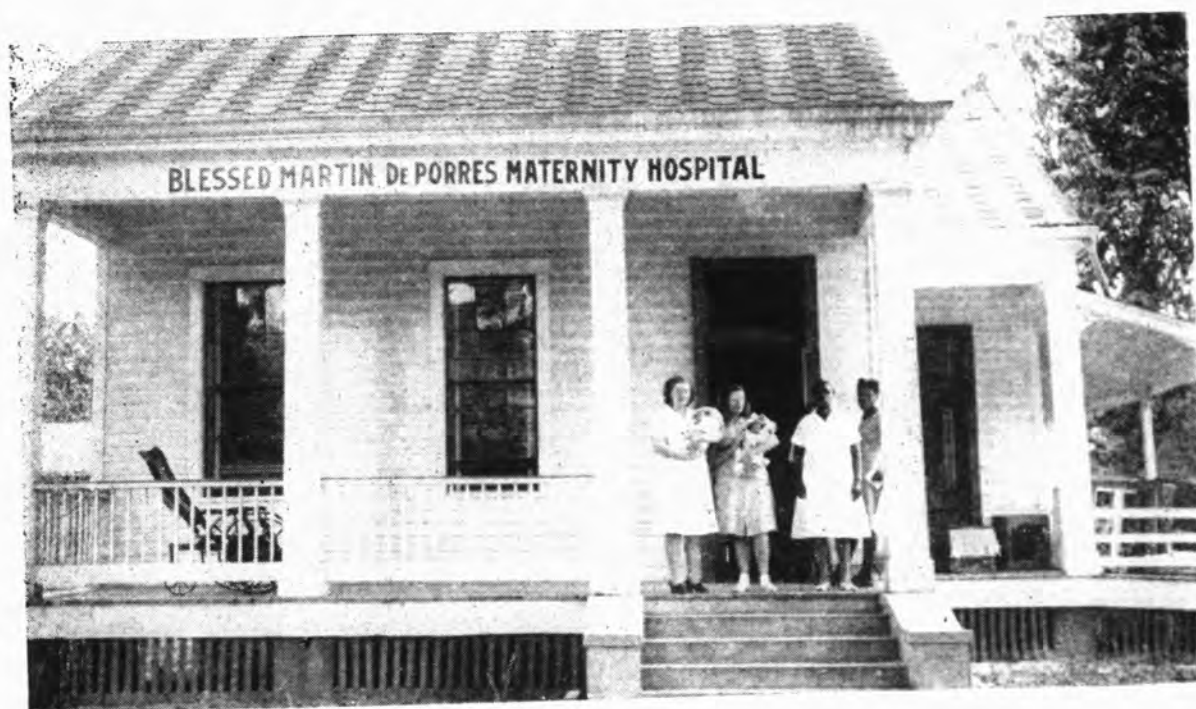
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THE NURSERY

CONFIRMATION IN AFRICA

GEORGE WILSON, S.V.D., Accra, British West Africa

- With waving flags and blaring band
- They make a day of it

This year has been more of a busy time than last year owing to the Bishop's confirming in our district. On July the Fourth, there were 193 Catholic Africans confirmed in Accra. There could have been more, but all did not come. It was no easy task to examine such a lot; but Father Lauck and I made it all right. Some had to come several times for examination because their knowledge of Christian doctrine was not satisfactory.

After my trek with Father Superior, I had to stop off at Ada to give the Retreat for Confirmation and arrange for the day of Confirmation. Although the Baptismal Register counts over 300 souls, yet withal there were only twenty-four confirmed because most of the people have left the town. In Akuse, which is another of my stations, there were twenty-three confirmed. But some were from nearby stations. I think that an account of the Akuse Confirmation will be interesting — so here goes:

This station, although founded in 1914 according to records, does not as yet have a church. The members are and have been in a position to build one since they are petty traders and tailors, and many of the men work as accountants for the European firms here. Our meeting place is a former store not much larger than a small room. Father Superior informed them that the Bishop was coming to their place to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and told

them that they had to provide accommodation for the candidates of the nearby stations and hinted that their "church" was too small for the ceremonies. This set them going. They decided to build a church, not for Confirmation only, but for later on. All the members voted something toward the new church. Some donated cash, one, for instance, promised one hundred dollars, others promised to pay for the bricks. When I came there about a month later, they had made thirteen thousand bricks, and had hauled stone from some nearby place to serve for the foundation.

The Bishop was scheduled to come on a Friday. But they complained that should that be done, they would not be able to receive him, nor attend the Confirmation since, as they alleged, they would not be able to get off from work. — So His Lordship consented to change his schedule and promised to come on a Sunday.

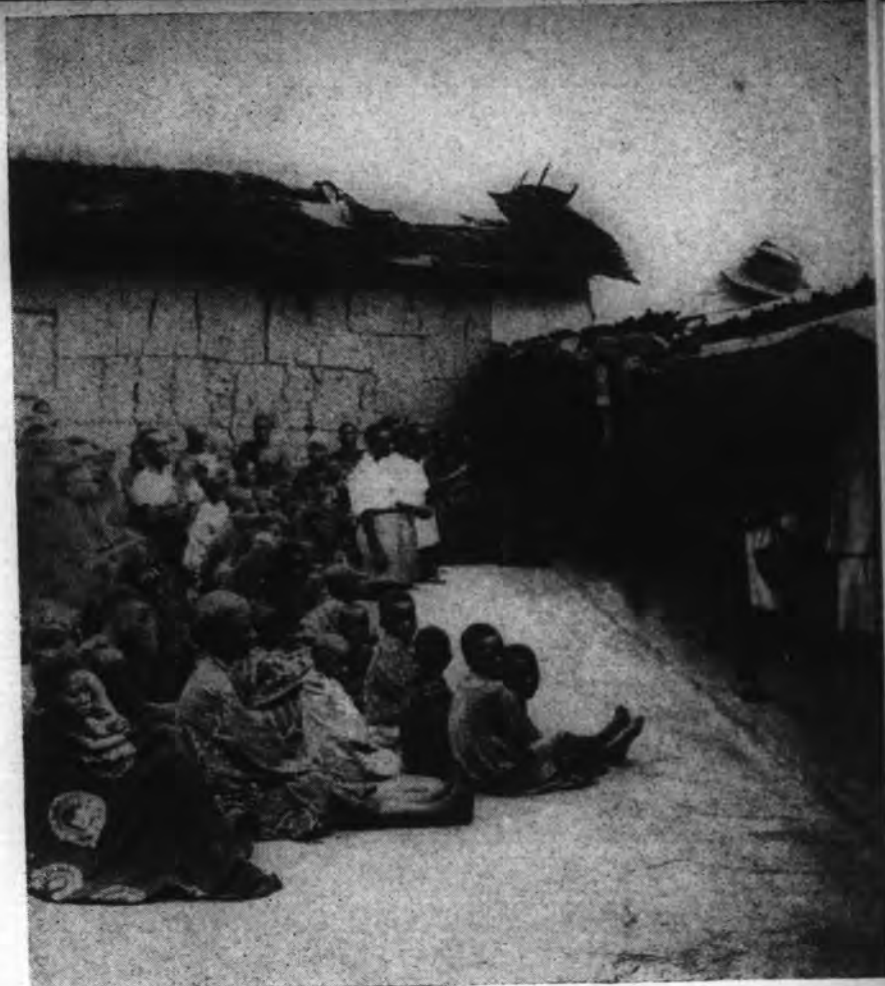
Usually for Confirmation the Bishop celebrates a Low Mass and after that administers the Sacrament of Confirmation. I wrote to them informing them of the usual procedure. It was not long before a delegation of two came posthaste and begged for a Solemn Pontifical High Mass. They were told that that, according to the rules of the Church, would require at least five priests, not to mention the vestments, etc. They persisted and offered to pay for the transportation

of the Fathers no matter how far they had to come. The Bishop was informed of this. He was willing to accede to their wishes if it would do some good for the many pagans and non-Catholics who might come to witness the ceremonies, but he did not bring along his vestments for a Pontifical Mass — in fact, he is not accustomed to have Solemn Pontifical High Masses in outstations. Luckily, the liturgy has provided for a Solemn Mass with the Bishop assisting vested with the cope.

In the meantime the members worked like beavers in erecting a shed — a spacious one at that — for the Confirmation. It was hardly up when it fell to the ground. The supports had not been firmly set in the ground. Not daunted by this mishap, they set to work to erect another equally spacious. The bamboo for the poles and for the roof had to be hauled from about ten miles away; grass had to be gathered for the roof. It was all taken care of. They were so diligent that some of the Protestants began to look upon them with envy, and whipped energy into their members to begin building something too.

Father Superior had made arrangements for Father Mensah, an African priest who had been ordained last December, to come for the occasion. Father Turbek was also to come. When I came for the Retreat, I learned that they had asked also for another Father to come who resided far away on the other side of the Volta River.

Moreover, a band from the other side was hired for the day, and some gunpowder was procured, all to add to the celebration. Invitations were



MASS UNDER A SHED IN AFRICA

sent out to the neighboring chiefs and prominent persons of the community. Without consulting anyone but themselves, the villagers arranged a program for Solemn Benediction to be given shortly after the arrival of the Bishop, while the Confirmation was to be in the afternoon.

The shed was well decorated. There was a large sanctuary with a throne for the Bishop, and a fine prie-dieu made for the occasion and also a very nice altar rail. The entire sanctuary was covered with good carpets. Banners and palm branches festooned the entire place.

Everybody in the whole Catholic community was astir — that is, everybody with the exception of the candidates for the Confirmation. It was a job getting these together for the Retreat. They had been placed in various houses throughout the town, and since we had no bell to call them, few attended the entire Retreat.

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Washington's Birthday

George Washington, first president of the United States of America, was given due honor on his birthday by our students. This time the program was a triple feature with a patriotic theme. The outline of the celebration follows:

Introduction and Dedication .. Elmer Powell
"La Marsellaise" (cornet solo) .. Paul Neale
Speech on North Africa Leon Ellis
"Mes Amis" Warren Carlson
"Anchors Away" Community
Poem Charles Felton
"Pyramus and Thisbe" (three-act play)

Students of the First Academic
Educational Movies

"Star Spangled Banner" Sung by all

Flowers

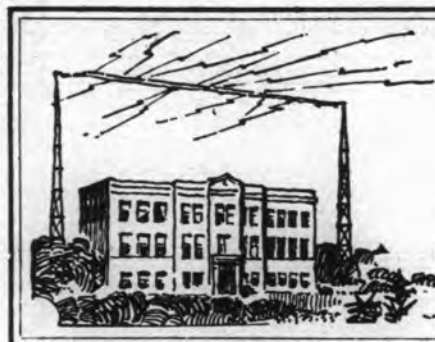
Daily St. Augustine's Seminary is becoming more beautiful in its outdoor surroundings. The greater number of these landscape improvements are due to the energetic activity of Father Baker, Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Science, under whose administration countless trees, shrubs, and flowers have been planted on our grounds. Father Baker together with Brother Peter is in charge of our greenhouse, where most of the young plants are cultivated.

Thus every month of the year our campus is studded and graced with colorful and fragrant flowers, that add natural attraction and beauty to the spots. Besides its verdant scenery, its large oaks covered with Spanish moss, St. Augustine's Seminary enjoys also an ideal location, whereby it receives abundant rainfall, sunshine and the cool breezes of the bay situated nearby the place.

New Sidewalks

Mr. Thaddeus Boucree, the father of our Frater Boucree (now a novice at St. Mary's Seminary, Techny, Ill.), has generously helped with the beautifying of our seminary buildings and grounds.

Mr. Boucree is an efficient mason by trade and recently he has constructed the main outdoor sidewalks, two porches at the side entrances to our main



Semina

BROAD ST

St. Augustine's Seminary
the only Catholic Seminary

chapel, concrete steps to the Fathers' residence, skilled and finished work on the new administration building and the major seminary.

The exemplary work of this good Catholic layman is a wonderful illustration to show the unselfish zeal of our benefactors. For this reason we wish to express sincere appreciation for the sacrifices and service of such individuals as Mr. Boucree.

Movies

The first silent movie production of St. Augustine's Seminary was shown again for the general entertainment of the community. This picture, photographed by Father August Freitag 14 years ago, is an excellent review of the pioneer missionary activity of the Seminary as well as a realistic portrayal of the first class to study and be ordained here. With Father Kist at the projector, Father Howard was the "talkie" feature of the show and told the important and commonplace events of those old days with much warmth and humor.

Educational Movies

The following films afforded much satisfaction and useful instruction: *Swim and Live*, *Troop Train*, *Food for the Fighters*, *Right of Way*. Besides the reels on military subjects, the travel films produced by the Tourist Department of the Mexican Government absorbed much attention and portrayed vivid scenes of Mexican life.

Provincial's Visitation

The visitation of the various departments of our religious community began Wednesday, March 16, with the Very Rev. Provincial, Father Joseph



PERPETUAL VOWS

Brother Joseph Maddox, S.V.D., who on the first of May bound himself for life to the Service of the Lord with the Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. He is the third colored lay Brother to make his final profession as a member of the Society of the Divine Word. A native of Maryland, Brother Joseph entered the Society in 1935 and made his first profession in 1937

Eckert, S.V.D., giving the opening sermon in the main chapel. This visitation by our Provincial was the annual inspection of the different classrooms, shops and buildings of our seminary.

The purpose of this visitation, like a regular military inspection, gives our superiors firsthand information and knowledge concerning the good order, cleanliness and discipline of the seminary.

This personal contact and general visitation are outward and sound manifestations of the fraternal relations existing between the members of the Society of the Divine Word.

Calisthenics

This word means physical exercise. Yep! It means daily exercise for our young minor seminarians. Every morning during the ten o'clock recess all our minor seminarians assemble in formation on the athletic field. There under the direction of Father Schellenberger, the assistant prefect, these youngsters take invigorating exercise in unison.

Why? Well, it drives away the monotony and weary feeling of the morning classes. Then, too, it boosts manly appetites for those little men, and the prefects want them to grow, eh? So, folks, strong missionary minds and bodies, future priests are in the making.



Capuchin Charity Knows No Color Line

(Continued from page 104)

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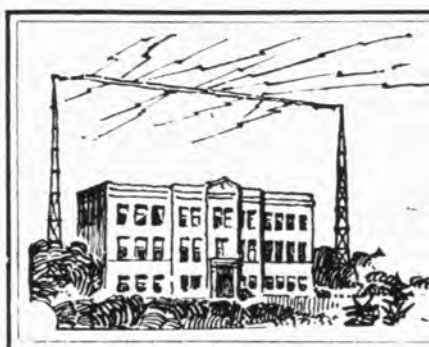
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MARY'S CHILDREN

GERTRUDE ANDERSON

Everyone knows the story about the old woman in the shoe! You remember her, don't you? The woman who had so many children she didn't know just what to do?

But do you know that most unhappily, however, not everyone knows about Mary, our Blessed Mother, and about all the many, many children she has under HER care?

It is true that for a long time, Mary had only *one* Child, JESUS, to care for. But because Jesus was the Son of God, the Father, He had to be about His Father's business. For God, the Father, so loved the world that He gave it His only-begotten Son, Jesus, so that whosoever believed in Him would have life everlasting.

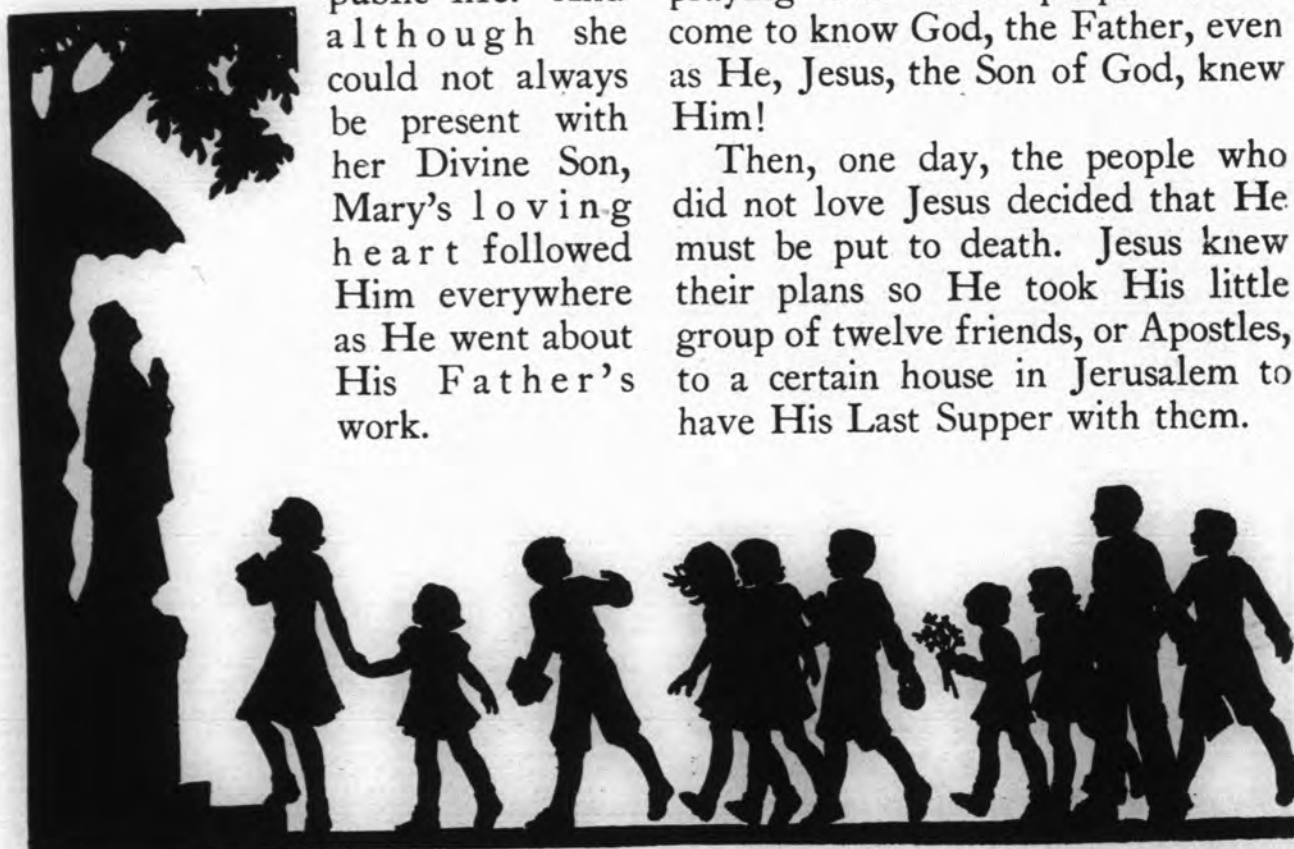
One day, then, Jesus bade His Holy Mother good-bye and left the little home at Nazareth to begin His public life. And although she could not always be present with her Divine Son, Mary's loving heart followed Him everywhere as He went about His Father's work.

The work which God, the Father, had given Jesus to do was to go out among the people and tell them that He was truly the Son of God; that He was the REAL Redeemer whom God had promised to send them after Adam and Eve, the first parents of the human race, had disobeyed God and had been cast out of the Garden of Eden.

This was very difficult work to do because the people had expected God to send them a very rich King or some kind of a very great person to redeem them. They did not wish to accept just a poor and humble carpenter, like Jesus!

Poor Jesus! Oftentimes he was very sad and lonely. He did gather about Him a few friends who were trying very hard to believe in Him. Sometimes Jesus would go a little way apart from His friends to pray all night to His heavenly Father, praying that those people would come to know God, the Father, even as He, Jesus, the Son of God, knew Him!

Then, one day, the people who did not love Jesus decided that He must be put to death. Jesus knew their plans so He took His little group of twelve friends, or Apostles, to a certain house in Jerusalem to have His Last Supper with them.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

At the supper Jesus took some bread and wine and blessed it. He told the Apostles that the Bread was His Body and that the Wine was His Blood and bade them to eat the Bread that was now His Body and to drink the Wine, which had now become His Blood because He had blessed it, and had said the words, "This is My Body" over the bread, and "This is My Blood" over the wine. The Apostles, then, had just received their **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION!** Jesus also told them that they must bless bread and wine hereafter in memory of Him.

At the Last Supper Jesus gave to the world His first great gift; the gift of **HOLY COMMUNION** — His own Divine Body and Blood as food for souls of the faithful.

The next day, on Good Friday, as Jesus hung upon the Cross, He gave to the world, which had so despised Him and which had refused to accept Him as being truly the Son of God, a second great gift — His own **BLESSED MOTHER!** He said, "Behold thy Mother!"

Jesus, Mary's Son, died then, and after His Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven, the Holy Ghost came down upon Mary and the Apostles.

The Apostles then became very strong in their faith in Jesus and went out into the streets preaching and baptizing. On that great day, Pentecost Sunday, Christ's Holy Catholic Church was begun and has continued down to our own day.

Mary, long ago, was taken up to Heaven and there she was crowned Queen of Heaven and of the Universe.

As such a great Queen, then,

Mary has many, many more children to care for now than the old woman in the shoe probably ever thought of. For Mary's children never in the wide world would fit into one little shoe! Mary's children live all over the world and are of every race — white, black, yellow, red and brown.

Oh, no! Of course, Mary doesn't have to wash all those different little black, and white, and yellow and red and brown skinned faces every morning before Mass or school!

But Mary does have to listen to and study over each little prayer and petition of her many children. How very happy she must be because these little prayers and petitions are unceasing, that is, they go on all the time, night and day. For while some little children in one part of the world have finished their little day of work and play and are saying their night prayers, other little children in other parts of the world are just beginning their day of work and play and are just beginning to say their morning prayers.

And best of all, isn't it quite wonderful to think that just as all these different little children are praying to Mary, at the different hours of the day and night, the Body and Blood of her Divine Son, Jesus, at those same hours is being placed on just as many different tongues as food for souls so near and dear to Him and to His Holy Mother?

And so it is that Christ's great Church goes on night and day under the protection of the Holy Ghost, just as He promised before He ascended into Heaven.

As His Missionaries go out far

(Continued on page 120)



FROM OUR BOYS IN SERVICE



We invite men and women in the Armed Forces to write to us. Your letters will be published on this page for the benefit of the folks at home. — Ed.

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At present I am doing topographical surveying. We have built many roads, bridges and an air strip. Our organization is highly praised for its work.

All that we need is to have more faith, and to continue to pray for a happy and safe return. May God bless you and your associates. Respectfully yours,

*Cpl. Francis W. Richardson
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APO 322
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MAY'S SAINTS

May 4 — St. Monica

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O Mary, dearest Mother,
We greet thee once again,
This month of all most welcome
To angels and to men.

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Ardent promoter of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, great reformer of the Franciscan Order, and outstanding preacher in Italy; such in brief were the apostolic achievements of today's Saint, Bernardine of Siena. Are you careless and irreverent in using the Name of Jesus? Ask St. Bernardine to obtain for you a true devotion to and reverence for the Name of Jesus, our Savior,

King and God.

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May 15, 16, 17 — Rogation Days

Up to the fifth century the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost were days of uninterrupted joy. There was no fasting, kneeling or penance. But a French Bishop of the fifth century, St. Mamertus, ordered public Litanies to be said to ask God to take away the dreadful suffering of his diocese caused by earthquakes, fire and other scourges. Thus arose the rogation days (*rogare* in Latin means "to ask" or "to petition"). At the present time, on these days the Church asks God's special blessing on the crops. Ask God to have mercy on the many starving peoples of this war-torn world.

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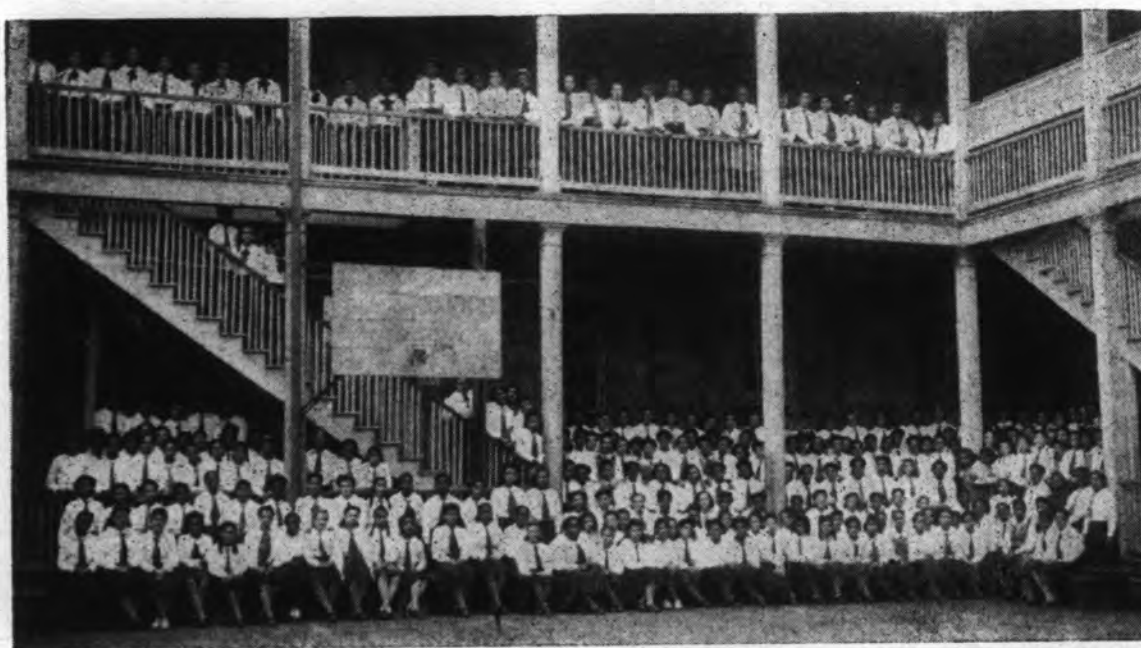
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Father Smith pleaded for justice for the Negro, saying: "We are not asking white people to throw their arms about us, but to give us only our just rights — an equal chance to earn a living wage, to build our homes in the place our means can afford, and to take our places in the public life of our country according to our ability."

Georgia? Yes, Suh!

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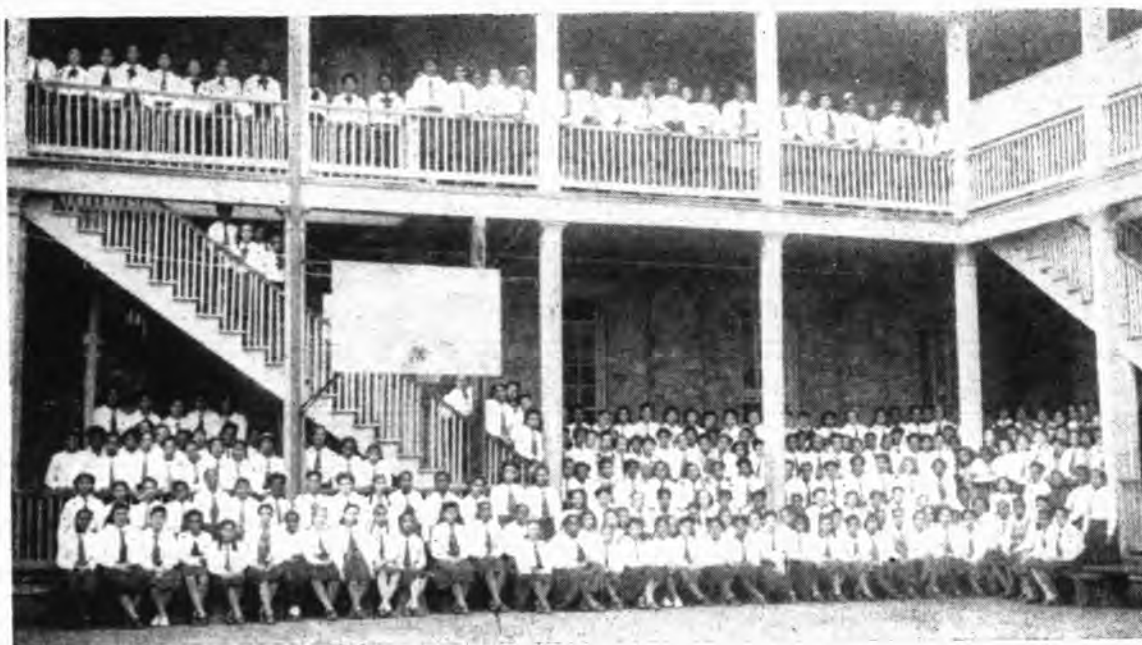
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BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE NEWS

Navigation Cadets Receive Commissions

At Hondo Army Air Field in Texas the graduation exercises of twenty-four Negro navigation cadets took place on February 26, 1944. They received commissions and silver navigator wings at the field. Strenuous and rigorous instruction in all phases of aerial navigation made up most of the training these young men received during their eighteen weeks' course. The navigation cadets flew from the Hondo Air Field in Texas to La Guardia Field in New York where they received a warm reception from Mayor La Guardia. They are scheduled to attend a school in advanced bombardiering so that they will be qualified both to guide the course of American bombers to enemy positions and to act as bombardiers for the 477th Bombardment Group now being trained at Selfridge Field, Michigan.

Mitchell Village to Honor Famous 99th

A war housing project, constructed by the Federal Public Housing Authority, was officially opened on February 15. The project consists of eighteen buildings and one hundred apartments. The plans for the project had been completed while the all-Negro air squadron was training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, but the construction was not begun before the unit was sent to North Africa. Both there and in Italy the members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the pioneer Negro unit of the Army Air Forces, have gained wide recognition and acclaim as the result of their successful encounters with the enemy. Mitchell Village, as the project is called, is named after Lt. Paul Graham Mitchell, the first member of the 99th officially reported killed in action overseas.

Eighteen More for B-25 Bombers

The second class of Negro fliers attending the Army Air Forces Training Command's twin-engine transition school at Mather Field in California re-

ceived their wings at graduation exercises held there on February 10. The class comprised eighteen Negro pilots who are now qualified for assignment to B-25 medium bomber work.

Four Negro Medical Officers Promoted

On February 22, Lt. Colonel M. O. Bousfield, the commanding officer of No. 1 Station Hospital at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, was promoted to the rank of Colonel. He was the former Rosenwald Fund director of Negro Health in Chicago. Three other officers, all stationed at Fort Huachuca, were promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. They are: Major Hinkson of Philadelphia, Pa., the executive officer of the hospital; Major R. C. Giles of Chicago, chief of surgical service; and Major H. W. Thatcher of Kansas City, Kans., chief of medical service.

Good Diction Award to Robeson

The American Academy of Arts and Letters judged Paul Robeson, the renowned Negro baritone singer and actor, the winner of this year's medal for good diction on the stage. Robeson's portrayal of Shakespeare's "Othello" merited nation-wide praise.

Negro Commentator on Radio

A Chicago department store has sponsored the radio program heard over WSBV on Sunday evenings from 9.45 to 9.55, during which Mr. L. A. Townsley, staff member of the Associated Negro Press, gives a ten-minute commentary on important world developments and on vital issues as they affect the Negro. Mr. Townsley said "Colored newspapers have done a wonderful job of combating race bigotry ... but the time has come when we need the help of the radio to push our just fight for complete freedom as American citizens."

Author Replies to PM's Criticism

Father Thomas McGlynn, O.P., son of Frank McGlynn the actor who portrayed the role of Abraham Lincoln,

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

is a very talented priest. He has sculptured a statue of Blessed Martin De Porres which has won high critical acclaim. Recently he has produced a play entitled *Caukey*. It is a drama on interracial justice and is being staged in the Blackfriars' Guild Theater in New York City. Although the play has been characterized as "the season's most extraordinary play," readers of *PM's* review of the drama would not be led to believe so. The reviewer stated that the play is "unrewarding both as to theater and thesis." Father McGlynn defended his work in a letter to the editor of the newspaper *PM* thus:

"Anyone reading the review would certainly believe that all I propose for Negroes is patience and a desire to please God. If that were the thesis of *Caukey*, I would agree with my critic that 'the Negro needs much more militant championing than that.' ... Since the reviewer has led *PM's* readers to believe that it is a supine, pie-in-sky sort of attitude, it is in order for me to let *PM* and its readers know that I have fought energetically and publicly for the rights of Negroes for many years, founded and for three years directed a social settlement for Negroes in Chicago, carried on a vigorous campaign to invalidate restrictive covenants in real estate — the major cause of bad housing in Negro areas.... These changes in the social picture with all they imply I ask of white people through *Caukey* ('Caukey' stands for Caucasians in the role of the persecuted minority). Of Negroes I urge united, forceful and prudent prosecution of these ends. Of both I beg mutual understanding, forbearance and fellowship. This is my thesis. Perhaps being 'more militant' means recommending race hatred and violence. I admit I am not militant in that sense."

The reviewer of the New York *World-Telegram* wrote this of the play:

"Last night the Blackfriars came forth with a play called *Caukey*, a soul-wrenching, hard-hitting, searingly sardonic and ironical arraignment of race prejudice, written with great skill and emotional drive by Thomas McGlynn,

who happens to be a Dominican priest, pastor of St. Helena Church at Amite, La... Although at some points *Caukey* was faultily directed and inexpertly played, it nearly tore my heart out, so poignant is the drama of it, which, in anguish and in sorrow, points a severely accusing finger at me: and you, and you and you!"

Confirmation in Africa

(Continued from page 107)

The Bishop came on Saturday. The people were waiting for him at the "store church." He was led in procession to the shed with the band blaring and flags waving and was greeted with the singing of a women's choir, which seemed to have suddenly come into existence, for I had never heard of them before.

After a short talk the Bishop gave his blessing and was escorted to his quarters a mile away. There the head Christian introduced him to the people. His Lordship asked to see the program, and then informed them that the Confirmation would take place after the Mass.

The next morning around 8:30 they came with the band and choir and escorted the Bishop to the shed for the sacred functions. The place was well filled. Everything came off well and all were pleased. Afterwards I learned that the chiefs were unable to come since they had received the invitation too late; but they sent representatives. There were only twenty-three confirmed, but all the Christians from the neighboring outstations who could come did not miss the chance. It was a fine display of Catholicity, and now I am waiting to see if the catechumen roll will grow larger as a result.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



My dear Boys and Girls:

Sunday, May 14, is MOTHER'S DAY. That is the day when you and I are going to honor our mothers in a special way; we are going to show them our love. Maybe one will give Mother a box of delicious candy. Another may give her some nice handkerchiefs, or some flowers or a book. Some children perhaps will take Mother for a ride in the country, or to the movies, with ice cream afterwards. Others may prefer to spend a pleasant evening at home with Mother, singing old songs and playing games.

Any one of these things will please Mother if you do it out of love for her.

But, whatever else is planned for Mother, no Catholic boy or girl should fail to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion for her on Mother's Day. For then it will not be just you alone trying to make your mother happy, but it will be Jesus in you, showing you and helping you.

Try it, and see how happy both you and Mother will be!

MY MAIL BAG

Dear Father Howard: — All of my classmates are members of the Holy Childhood. I am a member of the Holy Childhood, too. We have bought one pagan baby, and we are working to buy another one.

We pray every day for the missions, and for the Pope, and for the war to end. I hope it will end soon. I was very sad when I heard that the Germans were around the City

of Rome, but I ask God to save Rome and the Pope also. Your little friend,
Theresa Lilteau, grade 3
Garyville, La.

Yes, Theresa, the Holy Father certainly does need our prayers; he is suffering so much. So keep on praying for him, and for the City of Rome, and for the Germans, too, that they may turn from fighting to more peaceful things.

Dear Father Howard: — I am praying for you, and I hope I will be a Sister some day. I am in the third grade. We hope that some of Reserve's boys will be priests.

In October, 1942, I was a little Sister of the Holy Family for the procession in New Orleans on Mission Sunday. My name was Sister Priscilla, but now it is Earline again. I am sorry because I liked my Sister name. Pray for me, Father. Your little friend,
Earline Alexander, grade 3
Reserve, La.

Thanks for your prayers, Earline; and maybe someday you will really be a Sister. However, I think it would be wise for you to hold on to the name "Earline" until you decide for sure to move to the convent. Then perhaps we can call you "Sister Priscilla" again. Meanwhile, I'll be praying for you.

Dear Father Howard: — I am a little Catholic girl. I never wish to miss Mass, neither school. I love both very much, and I love to go to Holy Communion. I go very often.

I have a very good and nice teacher, Sister Mary Seraphine. I love her very much.

I pray for you, Father, and for the Holy Childhood. I do my very best in helping the Holy Childhood.

Father, I do hope and pray that someday you will come and visit our school and church. We would be more than glad to

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

have you. I send best wishes to you. A little friend,

Jacqueline Rose Chandler, grade 3
Box 21, Reserve La.

I did visit your school and church once, Jacqueline, but that was a couple of years ago when you were too small to remember. Maybe I will get a chance to come again. Keep up your good practice of going to Mass and Holy Communion regularly.

Dear Father Howard: — I am a little Catholic boy. I have been praying for the missions every day and night. I have prayed for you, too. I wish that we will win the war because I am praying for peace every day. Your little friend,

Sidney Sanders, age 10
Reserve, La.

A rather short but sweet letter, Sidney. Please write again when you have a little more time to spare.

Dear Father Howard: — I got baptized today about 9:00 o'clock. Father Laugel took our pictures afterwards.

I am in the 5th grade. I am the smallest one in the class. Father, I haven't started getting the MESSENGER yet, but I will get it soon. My Godmother's name is Catherine Woo. My Baptism name is Teresa.

I will be glad when you come back to Augusta. Sister Mary Ailbe is my teacher. I hope I will get promoted to the 6th grade. I think I know how to work the problem you gave us on the blackboard. Respectfully yours,

Jessie Mae Chinn, age 9
903 Gordon Street
Augusta, Ga.

Jessie Mae, I am very glad to hear of your Baptism. You are very dear and close to the Lord now. Soon He will allow you to receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. How happy you must be! I hope you will always be happy; and you will, if you will try always to love the Dear Jesus with all your heart and to stay ever so close to Him. I will be praying for you. And when I come back to Augusta I will see if you really know how to work that problem.



VICTORY GARDENING



Dear Father Howard: — I am saying a "Hail Mary" and an "Our Father" for the missions. I didn't have a copy of that magazine you print, but Miss Corrie lent us hers. But next month I hope we will have one.

I am still serving Mass. Sunday at 9:00 o'clock Mass the altar boys didn't know how to serve well. God bless you. Yours truly,

Beecher Clement Anderson, age 9
1519 N. Davis Street
Pensacola, Fla.

Glad to know that you are still faithfully serving Mass. But when the other altar boys don't quite know how, couldn't you take a little time out to show them? Try it, and write and let me know how you make out.

Dear Father Howard: — I enjoyed reading the MESSENGER. I am in the 6th grade. My teacher is very nice to me. I am not a Catholic, but I go to Mass every Sunday. I hope to be a Catholic next year.

Father, Addie Lee Kelly is my classmate. I think it was very nice of her to think about you and to write to you.

We are having some nice weather here. Father, I don't have much time, so I will write more next time. I wish to see you come back soon to Immaculate Conception Church. Respectfully yours,

Mary Belle Lee, age 11
425 Hale Street
Augusta, Ga.

Thanks for your nice letter, Mary. It is certainly fine that you are able to attend Mass every Sunday. God will surely bless you for that. Keep it up — it will help win the grace for you to become a good Catholic one day.

Dear Father Howard: — I was sorry to see you leave St. Mary's Academy at the close of the Retreat. In fact, all of the girls were sorry.

This is my first time writing to you or to any Colored priest.

We received our monthly school paper, which is named "Regina" in honor of our Blessed Mother. It showed the efforts St. Mary's has put forth this school term. St. Mary's has an undefeated basketball team this year. I am praying that we will win the annual tournament this time, and I be-

ST. AUGUSTINE'S MESSENGER

lieve if we play fair and trust in God we will win.

Everyone is still talking about the wonderful Retreat you conducted for us. I am trying to keep your advice, and if I keep it I am positive I will be a good girl. I assist at Mass every morning, and receive Holy Communion.

Father, I have two brothers in the Armed Forces; one is across the sea. Please pray that they will return home safe; and pray for me. Sincerely yours,

Geneva Brinkley, age 15
St. Mary's Academy
717 Orleans Street
New Orleans 16, La.

Sure, I will remember your brothers and you in my prayers, and I ask you not to forget me and my work in yours. Write again sometime, and let me know how the basketball tournament turned out.

* * *

During the month of May pray especially to the Blessed Mother that the little children in the Colored Missions who are sick may get well, or that they at least may not die without Baptism. And keep me in your prayers.

FATHER HOWARD, S.V.D.
Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

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HISTORY'S GENERALS

ARTHUR C. WINTERS, S.V.D.

Caesar of "veni, vidi, vici" fame
Has measured time with his account of wars;
And Alexander spent a dauntless name
Beneath the gleam of Greek and Persian stars.
And many after them and like to them
Have sought for glory in the battle's rage,
Eager to seize prestige's diadem,
Eager to scrawl on history's crowded page.

My Mother never called a host to arms,
Nor faced a foe with gun or sword and shield,
But, far from all of bloody wars alarms
She lived, apart from men's vain battlefields.
Yet, here on earth — the battlefield for
Heaven —
My Mother was the General of seven!

Mary's Children

(Continued from page 111)

and wide over the world to preach and baptize as He commanded, more and more little children are taught to know about Jesus and Mary. They, too, then learn to add their little prayers and petitions to those of Mary's other children, confident in their little hearts that MARY will know JUST WHAT TO DO!

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With our SVD Fathers on the Colored Missions

(Continued from page 115)

On his way back to the Seminary, Father showed the pictures also for the larger children of St. Jude's School in Montgomery, Ala.

None the worse for wear and tear, Father landed back at St. Augustine's Seminary, to see what it was that Mississippi had that Georgia didn't. But that's a different story!

REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS

"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..." (2 Mac. 12, 46)

In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mr. Charles Richardson; died in New Orleans, La., January 1944.

Mrs. Clara Lux, née Jobst; died in Chicago, Ill., March 11, 1944.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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